

MARCH 3 1997

TV LISTINGS

Reader would like to know if new Lab...
Matthew Page 47

OPINION

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Page 21
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Page 21
affid by
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Page 21COLUMNS
HILIAN REES-MOGG

PETER WATSON

PETER DODD

CONTINUED

LETTERS

TODAY

Match fixing trial
jury sent home

No. 65,828

THE TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 4 1997

35P

RISE AND FALL OF MARGARET THATCHER

Lord McAlpine tells the inside story of a Tory iconoclast PAGE 15

THE
FAC
DIEU ET
See it first,
see it free
TONEN 2
PAGE 23

CHILDREN - THE GREAT DIVIDERS

The battleground between parents and the rest PAGE 14

DISAFFECTION DORA WRITES

Libby Purves on crass attempts to categorise women PAGE 16



Health warning to 300,000 people

Tap water is threatened by pollution

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TAP WATER is increasingly threatened with contamination by a microscopic parasite which causes sickness as water companies try to maintain supplies after two years of drought, experts said yesterday.

Many companies are dropping pressure to reduce leaks and conserve dwindling reserves and this, say officials at the Department of the Environment, increases the risk of *cryptosporidium* penetrating the water network from the soil.

The news comes as 300,000 people in Hertfordshire and south London were yesterday told to boil tap water after an outbreak of the infection.

More than 30 people have suffered from diarrhoea in recent weeks after becoming infected. The illness can be fatal to some vulnerable people. Three schools were closed in the London Borough of Barnet. The level of infection is six times higher than health officials would normally expect.

Another reason for the increased risk is that farmers, trying to reduce moisture losses, are spreading more manure. This may be increasing the risk of *cryptosporidium*, which is often found in animal manures, contaminating supplies after heavy rains wash the pollution into rivers. Boreholes, traditionally free from the parasite, may now also be at greater risk.*Cryptosporidium* is normally filtered out by the chalk layers above underground sources. But the dry weather

may be making the land so parched that cracks are forming allowing it to infiltrate supplies.

There is also concern that because of the shortages some companies might be exploiting resources which in the past they may have deemed too dirty. But Dr Bob Bresch of the water industry's Joint Drinking Water Group, said such claims were speculative.

He said there was no evidence that outbreaks of *cryptosporidium* were rising during the drought. Dr Bresch said water companies were managing pressures but said they were not being reduced enough to cause penetration of the mains. However Dr John Fawell, principal toxicologist at the Water Research Centre in Henley-on-Thames, said that managing pressures to ensure that contamination was kept at bay was "very difficult".Yesterday Government and Three Valleys Water Company inspectors and local health officials, were trying to find the source of the outbreak. Leaflets were being delivered to 300,000 customers. A spokesman for Three Valley said traces of the pest have been found in several boreholes between Bushey and St Albans. But tests on tap water, carried out on March 1, found no trace of *cryptosporidium*.

The parasite can be picked up from farm animals and pets and transmitted in food and from person to person at swimming pools.

Ofwat, the water regulator, said yesterday that they would order compensation for customers if the company has been found to be lax. The organisation is also able to prosecute a company supplying unfit water.

There are between 5,000 and 10,000 cases of *cryptosporidiosis* in Britain annually but only a few are linked with water supplies. The biggest outbreak due to contaminated water supplies was in 1989 when 500 cases were confirmed in the Swindon and North Humber areas.

Since then a small number of other outbreaks have been investigated by the inspectors but the results have been inconclusive.

Testing for *cryptosporidium* is not mandatory because, in 1989 when the water regulations came into force, little was known about it.

Dr Stuttaford, page 2



Happy match: Bishop Santer and Sabine Bird at his home in Birmingham yesterday after their announcement of a late spring wedding

Bishop to marry divorcee in register office

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELATIONSHIP CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Mark Santer, announced yesterday that he is to marry a divorcee who was a friend of his first wife, Henriette, who died three years ago from cancer.

The bishop, 60, will marry Dresden-born Sabine Bird, 58, a probation worker, at a register office in late spring. The ceremony will be followed by a private service of prayer.

The marriage will double the size of their respective families and help to heal a period of tragedy and bereave-

ment for the bishop. Mrs Santer was respected throughout the community as a clinical psychologist and chairman of the South Birmingham Mental Health Trust.

Careful thought was given to Bishop Santer's plans at the highest levels of Church and State because of the sensitivity over the question of divorce.

It is understood that both the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, were consulted. Dr Carey yesterday wished them "every rich blessing and happiness together".

Bishop Santer is thought to be the first diocesan bishop to marry a

divorcee. The official policy of the Church of England is that marriage is for life and a church wedding is not sanctioned where a previous spouse is living. However, recent indications are that the Church could be softening its line. Many believe that the way is being cleared for the Prince of Wales to remarry, should he so wish.

Mrs Bird, who has three adult children and four grandchildren, was divorced by mutual consent from her first husband, a retired GP, in 1983.

Bishop Santer, who also has three adult children and is expecting his first grandchild in July, said: "Sabine was

one of my first wife's closest friends, so we have known each other for many years. We are both surprised and delighted by this new turn of events."

Mrs Bird, who has a degree in English literature from Birmingham University, said: "I am not surprised that we have fallen together but I am surprised about the media attention."

Steve Jenkins, for the Church of England, said: "I cannot recall something like this happening before, but there is nothing in canon law that would prevent it."

Clergy clash, page 5

Match fixing trial jury sent home

The jury in the football match fixing trial was sent home for the night by a judge at Winchester Crown Court yesterday, after considering their verdict for several hours.

Footballers Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Seger and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lin have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Elvis perfume court battle

A former barrow boy took on America's Presley industry in the High Court over the right to sell Elvis embossed soap and perfume in Britain.

Sud Seng, is appealing against a ruling in the Trademarks Registry in favour of Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc of Memphis. Page 3

Clarke diverts spotlight to 'fighting fit' Britain

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE tried to dispel deepening Conservative Party gloom last night with the claim that Britain was "fighting fit" and facing the best economic prospects for a generation.

In a determined attempt to move the political debate away from Europe and on to the economy, the Chancellor pointed to a range of factors which he said gave reason for great optimism about the country's future.

But he promised that in spite of consumer confidence being at its highest for eight years, savings historically high and public finances healthy, he would not take his eye off the ball and take risks with the recovery.

He was, he said, keeping a careful watch on rising house prices and the windfalls from building society mergers and

secretary. Mr Dorrell issued a statement on Sunday accepting that British participation had not been ruled out in early 1999 - only 150 minutes after saying that it had.

The confusion and disarray has blunted the Tory fightback after Wirral. But yesterday Mr Major again called senior ministers and officials to Downing Street for another election-planning session, including a fresh look at the manifesto.

They will try to get back on the offensive with new attacks this week, including one today from William Waldegrave, the Labour Chief Secretary, on the Treasury's spending plans.

The Chancellor's allies, Continued on page 2, col 5

Peter Riddell, page 8
Woodrow Wyatt, page 16
Business News, page 27

Albania cuts TV link with world

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT BERISHA of Albania last night blocked out television coverage of the mass unrest in the country, banning the BBC and other international media from sending pictures and clamping down on domestic coverage.

State-controlled television was restricted yesterday to repeated showings of the President's re-election by Tirana's rubber-stamp parliament.

The ban followed the declaration of a state of emergency. Tirana was able to enforce the blackout by halting the only satellite television feed from the capital. The European Union, serving about 25 Western companies and channels including the BBC, was shut down at 5.30 GMT.

The BBC, whose radio broadcasts in Albanian have been a vital source of news in the country, announced

yesterday that it was extending its short-wave broadcasts, following the closure of its FM transmitter on Mount Dajti in central Albania. Starting yesterday, three daily short-wave broadcasts were added from Britain and Cyprus.

The BBC rejected allegations after Wirral. But yesterday Mr Major again called senior ministers and officials to Downing Street for another election-planning session, including a fresh look at the manifesto.

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Speak-your-weight minister slips into overdrive

W hitehall's latest wheeze is to offer the public a machine in place of a human to consult.

To demonstrate, the minister chosen to explain it yesterday was an automaton so cool, so regulated and so bland that, were a computerised hologram to have delivered the statement in his place, people would have fallen on its neck, weeping with relief at the sheer humanity, the flesh-and-blood quality, of the creature.

Virtual reality? This minister is a virtual hardware package. Unreal from his shiny shoes to his wax-slicked scalp, Roger Freeman's volume control is set permanently on *medium*, his facial screen

switched to *impassive*, and his software programmed to ignore all provocation, and not to recognise humour. Mr Freeman's voice pattern puts us in mind of the running of an electric sewing machine, hemming curtains.

Mr Freeman had come to tell us about government *direct (enough)* 3439. He even said it like a speaking clock. "People... interact... with government... daily," he sang, in soft monotone. Should Mr Freeman be out of a job after the election, he would be well-suited to providing the voice for radio commercials for private hospitals on Classic FM. "As... the Cabinet... Minister... for... Public... Service... I... find... the... prospect... of... delivering..."

services... electronically... direct... to... the... public... enormously... exciting..."

Enormously exciting? The idea of Mr Freeman finding anything at all enormously exciting is risible, but there do exist modern software packages devised to recognise words like "enormously" and "exciting" and raise the volume for their delivery by a couple of notches. A primitive version of this function is incorporated into John Redwood's software: on the appearance in the Vulcan text of

words like "royal" or "patriotic", Mr Redwood suddenly shouts, waves his arms mechanically. His programmers have been instructed by their Earthling informers that these are "emotion words".

On Freeman whirred "... a means... for... making... services... customer-driven..." The Freeman programme incorporates an built preference for such words. Other approaches, he told us, were "paper-driven". Roger Freeman is Brylcreem-driven. "The initiative..."

should... be... truly... cross-governmental... and... customer-centred..." he burumphed.

After seven minutes and 42 seconds the burumphing ceased. How do we know this? Incredibly, the minister's statement, of which the press were issued with a copy, ended: "I commend our plans to the House. 965 words (- 7 minutes 42 seconds at 130 words per minute.)"

Replying Labour's Derek Foster, a normally charitable man, driven mad by the imperturbable whirring noises emitted from Mr Freeman, went right off the deep end. "This is a last-gasp technical gimmick from a party of the past... citizens betrayed... failure of

imagination, failure of leadership, from a failed Government breathing its last gasp..."

Poor Mr Foster. He should have known. The Freeman package is not programmed to respond to insult. The minister thanked him for his courtesy. "Personal, caring, compassionate... understanding... service..." Freeman sing-songed, his thesaurus function spinning into overdrive.

Only Sir Patrick Cormack (C: Staffordshire South) momentarily spikied the minister's nylon cogs. Personal contact, he said, still counted with many. Who wanted to address inquiries "to a hole in the wall?" But that was what Sir Patrick was doing.

Meeting to tackle fears of TV violence

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, will meet senior broadcasters tomorrow to discuss growing public concern about screen violence.

The meeting organised by the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Independent Television Commission, will be attended by Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, Roger Langton, director of the ITV company United Broadcasting, and Wilf Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute.

Martin Bell, the BBC foreign correspondent who has criticised broadcasters for not showing the horror of war and violence, will address the meeting.

Security review

A review of the management of Broadmoor special hospital, concentrating on security and care, was announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. The review follows concern about a "patient power" system at the hospital, which houses some of the most dangerous criminals.

Pollution deal

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced an EU agreement committing Britain to a 10 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. He rejected a 15 per cent cut as being unrealistic and challenged other "major polluters", such as the US, to match the agreed target.

Damages for girl

A judge at a civil hearing at Bristol Crown Court awarded damages of £80,000 to a 12-year-old girl whose mother and two sisters were killed by a hit-and-run driver six years ago. The case against Martin Flook, 24, was brought on behalf of Emma Hurkett by her father, Stephen.

Climbers named

Douglas Blake, 54, a retired fireman, and Alexander Kirk, 64, a former miner, have died in Scotland's worst mountain accident this year. The two, from Penicuik in Midlothian, fell 1,000 ft in fierce blizzards in the West Highlands. Their five friends saw a snow cornice give way.

Boy faces charges

A 12-year-old boy is facing prosecution after a car he was driving hit a man who later died. Robert Bond, 59, from Preston, Lancashire, suffered severe head injuries in the accident at Burscough, Lancashire, last week. Police have yet to decide the severity of the charge.

Bull's rampage

Three men were taken to hospital after being injured by a bull that escaped from a cattle market in Darlington, Co Durham. The animal was finally destroyed by a police marksman after a two-mile rampage. The victims were treated at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Burglar dies

A burglar died after getting stuck in a door for two days as he tried to get away. Police in Bradford were alerted after a neighbour heard the intruder's cries for help. Michael McNamara, 37, died less than 30 minutes after being released, despite attempts to revive him.

Move aimed at reducing £1.5bn bill

Ministers plan to prevent hopeless legal aid cases

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH crackdown on the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme was announced by the Government yesterday aimed at stopping lawyers recommending legal aid where cases are far-fetched or have little chance of success.

The new measures — to be unveiled in a consultation paper in two weeks' time — will target barristers who give "over-optimistic" opinions" about the prospects of success in a civil legal aid case.

The Government will also float the idea of giving members of the public a role on legal aid committees, which hear legal aid appeals, so they can inject a more "robust" view of cases. The moves were announced by Gary Streeter, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department in a parliamentary answer, yesterday.

Mr Streeter said he was concerned that barristers asked by the Legal Aid Board for an opinion on whether civil legal aid should be granted were not taking a tough enough line. "I have become increasingly concerned — and we have evidence which is partly empirical and partly anecdotal — that some barristers are giving overgenerous and optimistic opinions, bearing in mind that the Legal Aid Board would find it very difficult to say 'no' if it had counsel's opinion on its desk that the case had a good chance of success." Mr Streeter said there was evidence that this was happening increasingly in the field of



Streeter: attacked "over-optimistic" barristers

immigration cases and he wanted to send out "a clear signal that the Government wants to deal with the problem."

One proposal will be that the barrister instructed by the Legal Aid Board to give an opinion on the merits of a case should be barred from subsequently acting in the case. A second option to be floated is that only "approved" barristers — those on a special Legal Aid Board panel — should be allowed to give an opinion about the likely success of a case. At the same time the Government is looking at how to crack down on decisions of the Legal Aid Board's area committees who are made up of lawyers. The committees grant civil legal aid more "in line with public concern and common sense". It will put forward the idea of giving the

public a role as members of specialist legal aid area committees who hear appeals on whether cases deserve legal aid and "be more robust about it," Mr Streeter said.

"It is becoming quite clear in some cases are turned down by the Legal Aid Board and they then go to the legal aid area committees who allow appeals against the Board's decisions. When these cases come up in court, if it turns out they are the case which the taxpayer should never have had to pay for," he said. Increasingly the cases which caused public concern were "decisions by the area committees reversing initial refusals by the Legal Aid Board," he said.

The new measures would affect civil legal aid, which makes up roughly two thirds of the £1.4 billion budget. The Government has already embarked on measures to overhaul the legal aid scheme, including changes to the way lawyers are paid: a special investigations unit to stamp out bogus claims and new rules to tackle legal aid abuse by the apparently wealthy.

A Bar Council spokesman said last night that it was already a professional rule that a barrister should not prolong a legal aid case beyond what was necessary. He added that the Bar has also put forward proposals to the Government for reform of the legal aid scheme which included more stringent criteria on whether civil legal aid should be granted.

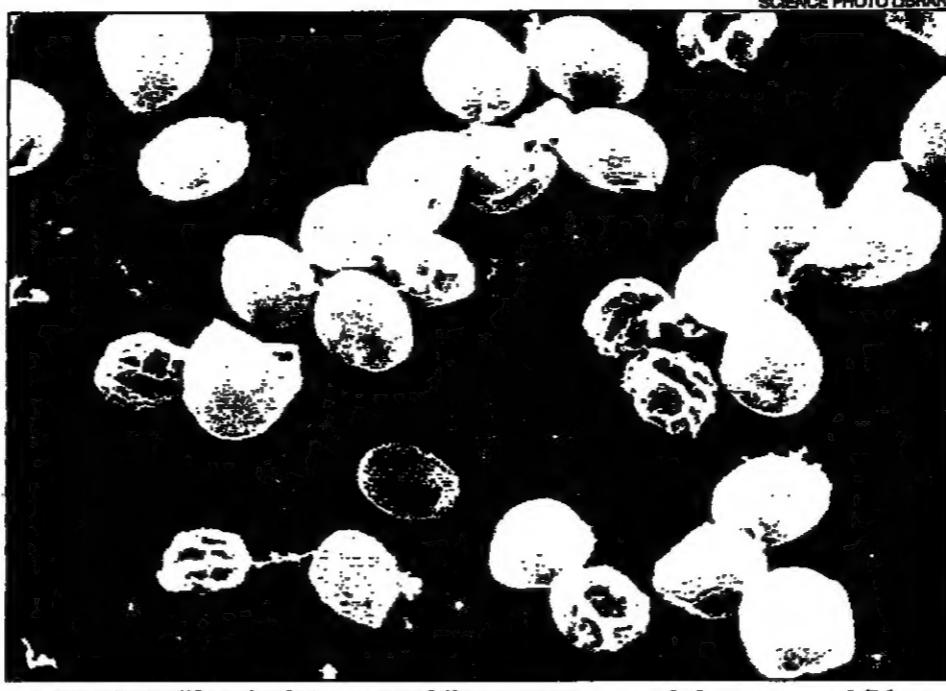
Patients infected with cryptosporidium suffer a sudden, explosive intestinal upset, which is induced by the toxins released by the infection. The diarrhoea is accompanied by cramping abdom-

inal pain. The symptoms diminish but usually persist for seven to 14 days. There is no specific treatment, but the normal healthy patient recovers spontaneously. The main therapy is directed to maintaining fluid balance.

In immuno-compromised patients, those taking steroids and other immune suppressant drugs, the very young and the very old, patients with cancer and those with HIV, the disease can occasionally prove fatal despite rehydration and other supportive measures. Cryptosporidium is a common cause of intracta-

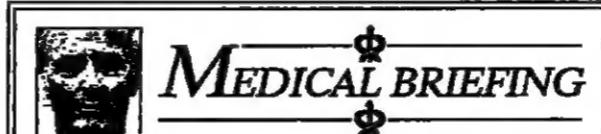
MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH



Stage in the life cycle of *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Rounded oocysts are visible

Water, water everywhere, but is it safe to drink?



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

inal pain. The symptoms diminish but usually persist for seven to 14 days.

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ble diarrhoea in Aids patients.

Cryptosporidiosis is most infectious at the start of the disease, when the patient's faeces are loaded with oocysts but it remains infectious until all symptoms have gone. If the cryptosporidium did not gain access to the water supply at its source, contamination must have occurred later, in which case the infecting vertebrae was presumably human, but the cause would be the same — sewage.

The only sure way to kill the oocysts is to boil water. Household water filters or purification tablets are unlikely to make it safe to drink.

Rifkind gives warning against the rush towards EU integration

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MALCOLM RIFKIND gave warning yesterday of the long-term consequences should members of the European Union rush ahead with decisions on further integration, such as joining a single currency, without thinking them through.

European treaty changes were "for good" and could not be followed "by a chance to reconsider", the Foreign Secretary said. However, he steered clear of the controversy over whether a single currency would come into being on the planned date of January 1, 1999.

In a speech in Paris, Mr Rifkind underlined Britain's objections to integration in policy areas such as economic,

foreign and home affairs, developments which, he said, would diminish the role of the nation-state. "Let us try to imagine the position in, say, 2025," he said. "Suppose we have a single currency with a single interest rate across the union. Suppose it is followed over time by harmonised fiscal policies, and perhaps common employment and social policies and European control over justice and home affairs."

"In such a Europe, what role will be left for the nation-state? On monetary union, he added: "Decisions in 1998 on a single currency will affect us for years ahead. Short-term answers will have long-term results. We must be sure we are comfortable with them."

Mr Rifkind, in Paris to continue his

advocacy of Britain's vision for the EU, used a wide-ranging speech to make clear that Britain would co-operate with other countries but could not agree to deeper integration in these areas. A member state generally only vetoed foreign policy proposals because it felt its national interest would be damaged — but under majority-voting it would have to accept that damage. It would "presumably complain pretty clearly about being overruled", Mr Rifkind said. "The result — an EU policy that the rest of the world knows is contested, even within Europe, and a member-state resentful at seeing its national interest overridden. I see little advantage and considerable risks in such majority-voting."

Continued from page 1 however, were complaining of moves by ambitious members of the Cabinet to push Mr Clarke to the limit, in the knowledge that the nearer they got to an election the less likely he would be to resign if a change of policy was effectively forced upon him.

It was being noted that when Mr Dorrell was told by Conservative Central Office staff of the intense press interest prompted by his remarks on Sunday he had telephoned Mr Clarke, rather than the Prime Minister, to assure him that he was not breaking the policy.

But Mr Clarke's friends said

giving way. "He has made plain time and again that he is doubtful about the single currency in 1999, but he is determined that this country should not lose its influence. Neither he nor a large group of us on the backbenches will let the Government throw it away," a senior MP said.

Michael Heseltine denied that when Mr Dorrell and Mr Rifkind were jockeying for a future leadership contest, Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "I don't think that is Stephen's approach. If there is any colleague of mine behaving in that way they must have taken leave of their senses and they ought to be

concentrating on getting this party back into office."

In his speech last night to the British Retail Consortium, Mr Clarke even called on the Spice Girls pop group to help his wider message of cheer.

He hailed the economic achievements of the past five years and said: "In the words of those well-known government supporters — the Spice Girls — 'I'll tell you what I want, what I really really want'. I want to see healthy sustainable growth and rising living standards for the next five years."

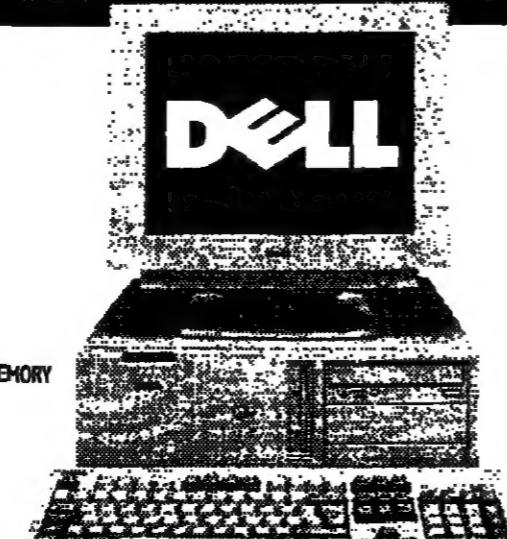
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Bomb found outside Sinn Fein offices in Irish Republic

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOMB was discovered outside Sinn Fein offices in Monaghan in the Irish Republic yesterday. Although nobody admitted planting the device, security sources were blaming the Ulster Volunteer Force.

It would be the first time that loyalist terrorists have attacked a target in the Republic since the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire in February 1994, and is thought to be a warning to the Dublin Government. The UVF is believed to be very unhappy that Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, met Nationalist community leaders from Northern Ireland with terrorist convictions in government buildings in Dublin last week.

Five months previously, the UVF placed a similar bomb in a pub in Dublin where high-ranking republicans were attending a Sinn Fein function. Only the detonator exploded, grazing the legs of passengers.

The bomb, in a hold-all, contained about 5lb of commercial explosives. It had been placed at the back of the Sinn Fein offices and primed to go off at 9am yesterday, as the party's members arrived for work. However, the detonator failed and only the device exploded. The bomb was taken away by members of the Irish Army bomb disposal team for forensic examination.

Loyalist paramilitaries have long been disaffected with the political process and felt disproportionate attention was being paid to nationalist grievances. Before Christmas they put bombs under the cars of Sinn Fein councillors in the Province. Nobody admitted those attacks. The Monaghan attack will probably not be claimed either.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday that multiparty talks on the future of Northern Ireland should aim for progress within a set period after the British general election. Mr Bruton, addressing British and Irish MPs in Dublin, called for an agreed time-frame for the talks, after the election.

The last attack in the Republic occurred in September 1994 when the UVF placed a bomb in a hold-all in the Belfast to Dublin train. Again, only the detonator exploded, grazing the legs of passengers.

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rekindle particularly grim memories for the people of Monaghan. Almost 26 years ago the UVF carried out car bomb attacks in Dublin and Monaghan: 28 people were killed in Dublin and five in Monaghan.

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The Welsh corgi, left, bulldog and spaniel are among the breeds singled out by the Council of Europe's convention on pet animals

Treaty 'threatens 100 breeds of dog and cat'

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

MORE than 100 breeds of dog and cat could be outlawed under European proposals, animal pressure groups claimed yesterday. Threatened breeds include the cocker spaniel, bulldog, basset hound, corgi and Persian cat.

The Council of Docked Breeds is calling on individual MPs to set out their position on the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals before the general election. The treaty has

already been signed by 11 member states but Britain has not yet committed itself.

Under the convention, a list of canine characteristics would be banned, including large protruding eyes, abnormally positioned teeth and abnormal eyelids. The cocker spaniel's ears are said to be too long, the basset hound has legs which are "abnormally positioned" and the dachshund's legs are too short, as are those of the King Charles spaniel. The bulldog would have to disappear because it has "markedly

folded skin".

St Bernards, several breeds of terrier and some types of corgis could also be outlawed if the convention, designed to improve animal health and achieve greater unity between member countries, became law.

Because it is not a European Union directive, it would not be legally binding. But dog breeders fear it will be brought into force after the election.

The Conservatives have pledged not to sign the convention during

this parliament, but campaigners fear the next government could commit itself to the rules without realising the consequences. Ginette Elliott, a spokeswoman for the Council of Docked Breeds, said: "This is yet another example of European interference. They are not just seeking a single currency. They want a single breed of dog." The RSPCA said each breed had to be evaluated individually to determine whether it was suffering, and that an arbitrary ban would lead to certain breeds being lost unnecessarily.

Pop girls add some sugar to the spice

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Spice Girls put away their pouts and snarls and courted full-blown respectability yesterday. They released a video starring their mothers and, perhaps rather more damaging, were discussed in the Commons and claimed as allies by the Chancellor.

Their record has an accompanying video featuring the girls' mothers in a chat show. A spokesman for the band said the decision to feature two generations of Spice Girls had been made for the most heartwarming of reasons. "It's Mother's Day on Sunday and they are nice girls," he said.

Last night Kenneth Clarke, in a speech to the British Retail Consortium, proclaimed: "In the words of those well-known government supporters 'I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want'. I want to see healthy sustainable growth and rising living standards for the next five years."

Earlier in the Commons the girls were used by Michael Fabricant, Tory MP for Mid Staffordshire, to illustrate how government tax policies had stopped pop stars fleeing into tax exile. He asked the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley: "Are you not delighted that under this Conservative government the Spice Girls have stayed in this country?"

Mr Fabricant urged Mrs Bottomley to congratulate the Spice Girls for winning the best single award in the Brit Awards and asked: "Were you not heartened, as I was, to hear that Margaret Thatcher was the original Spice Girl?" Mrs Bottomley replied only: "Yes."

Royal yacht gets into a scrape with fuel tanker

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE Royal Yacht *Britannia* was involved in a collision with a tanker during a refuelling operation.

The collision caused damage to the starboard side. The immaculate paintwork that includes 24-carat gold leafing, was badly scraped. There was also minor structural damage. The royal yacht is currently on its last overseas trip before being decommissioned at the end of the year.

The incident happened last Friday when *Britannia* was drawing alongside the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Bayleaf*, to be refuelled off the coast of Pakistan, close to Karachi. The operation requires perfect judgment by the officers on the bridge and is normally carried out by the captain or navigator.

During the operation, known in the Navy as "doing a RAS" (replenishment at sea), the royal yacht and refuelling tanker are supposed to remain at the same speed, about 40 yards apart, creating pressure waves at aft and stern. It is believed there was a steering fault on *Britannia* and the royal yacht started to get too close, and finally got sucked towards the tanker. No one was hurt.

Engineers flew out to Karachi and spent yesterday examining the damage. *Britannia* is expected to continue its planned trip to Bombay but when it arrives in Singapore will be given an extensive check. A Navy spokesman said that the incident would not affect the timing of the yacht's arrival in Hong Kong in June for the handover of the colony to China.

Bugged phone calls to be part of show

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MOBILE-PHONE users could find their most intimate conversations being broadcast by an avant garde mixed-media show that draws on live telephone calls picked up with a scanner during each performance.

A national tour, which includes two dates at the South Bank Centre in London in May, may, however, see police officers in the audience. A Home Office spokeswoman said that it was unlawful to intercept a mobile phone call. "People have a right to privacy," she said.

Robin Rimbald, a multi-media musician, plans to work the scanner, mixing random conversations with his electronic score for *ACTUAL FACTUAL*, created by the choreographer Laurie Booth, which is premiered

tonight at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre in Woking, Surrey.

Mr Booth insisted that he is processing material so that voices are altered. During rehearsals, conversations had ranged from a child leaving a threatening call on someone's answering-machine to a builder making arrangements for his next job. "We also zoomed in on quite a few people having affairs."

But he denied they were invading people's privacy.

"It's anonymous material. As we listen to it, the issue is about the banality of human communication."

A South Bank spokesman said that the mobile phone conversations were part of a larger soundscape. "He takes all kinds of recordings. People in bars, for example, to create a wall of sound."

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Memorial to Indian Army will mark independence jubilee

By ALAN HAMILTON

BRITAIN is to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence this year by raising a memorial in London to the many thousands of soldiers of the Indian Army who fought and died in two world wars.

Announcing a programme of commemorative events at Westminster yesterday, Lord Cranborne, the Lord Privy Seal, said that an appeal fund to build a memorial would be launched later

this year and would be headed by Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker, and another veteran of the Indian Army, Viscount Slim, son of the wartime field marshal who commanded British forces in the Far East.

During the war, the Indian Army constituted the largest volunteer force ever assembled, and its men won no fewer than 31 VCs and 4,800 other awards for gallantry in the Allied cause. The form and location of a formal monument to them in the old

imperial capital has yet to be decided.

India and Pakistan became independent on August 15, 1947. The moment was marked by the lowering of the Union Flag in Delhi and the blowing of a conch shell in the chamber of the Indian Assembly.

Lord Mountbatten, the last Vice-roy, became the first governor-general. Within a month, violence had erupted as Muslims fleeing mainland India to the new Islamic state of Pakistan were massacred in the border state of Punjab.

Meanwhile, Hindus fleeing from Pakistan were massacred.

Britain will mark its imperial history, and acknowledge Britain's population with roots in the sub-continent, with a programme of receptions and exhibitions. The Queen will visit India and Pakistan in October and her Buckingham Palace garden parties this summer will have a good number of guests from Britain's Asian community.

The Prince of Wales, who campaigns for a greater understand-

ing of Islam and who last week visited Bangladesh, will host his own reception for Asians in Britain and will be guest of honour at a banquet for 1,500 Asians to be staged in the Royal Albert Hall.

In a message to the official launch of the commemorative programme yesterday, the Prince said that the year's events represented "a way in which we can all mark an important moment in the history of relations between this country and the countries of South Asia, recognising past connections

whilst also looking to the future. In particular, it allows me to pay tribute to the enormous contribution made by the peoples of the sub-continent to British life."

Museums and arts festivals throughout Britain plan to take an Indian theme this year, starting with a concert at the Royal Albert Hall on March 17 featuring Ravi Shankar, the sitar maestro, and continuing with exhibitions of Indian crafts and textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Politicians have already begun

to milk the occasion. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday visited an Asian leather business in Bethnal Green, east London, and praised the community's entrepreneurship.

"At a time when roughly 40 per cent of the independent wholesale and retail sectors are in Asian hands, this and other businesses are clearly benefiting from the Conservative vision of opportunity for all," Mr Clarke said.

Letters, page 17

Woman chef fights men-only policy of Royal Marines

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who tried to become a chef in the Royal Marines was told that only men were allowed to cook meals. Yesterday Angela Sirdar, who was trained as an army chef and wanted to switch to the marines, challenged the policy at an industrial tribunal.

She accused the marines of sex discrimination and claimed compensation from the Ministry of Defence at the hearing in Norwich. If she wins her case, which is expected to last two weeks, it could trigger a wave of similar claims in other areas of the Armed Forces where women are banned. The Government prohibits women from serving in combat units, although servicewomen can now be deployed closer to the front line than ever before.

Mrs Sirdar, 31, whose husband, Eugene, is a former marine, was made redundant from her job as a chef with the Army Catering Corps in 1995. She had been attached to 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, based at Plymouth. Although it is an army regiment, it is assigned to the Royal Marines.

Mrs Sirdar applied to join the Royal Marines as a cook

A former soldier who said that officers suggested, while she was pregnant, that she have an abortion, arrange an adoption or have the child brought up by her parents, has accepted a £3,000 payment from the Ministry of Defence.

Angela Walker, 31, from Bonnybridge, Denby, had told a Glasgow industrial tribunal that while serving as a dog handler in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, she was picked on, verbally abused and given harder tasks because she was pregnant. The suggestion to terminate her pregnancy had been insensitive because she had lost two children through cot deaths.

When she saw their advertisements inviting redundant army chefs to apply for a transfer. However, Mrs Sirdar, who has a five-year-old daughter, claimed she was told she could not apply to switch to the Royal Marines because she was a woman.

She was told the policy was necessary because everyone

serving in the marines had to be capable of fighting in a war. Women are allowed to join the Royal Marines only as musicians, who have a secondary role as stretcher-bearers in time of war. The Royal Marines said that allowing Mrs Sirdar to become a chef in the corps would be in breach of their traditional "inter-operability policy".

Mrs Sirdar, whose claim is backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, is fighting the ruling on the grounds that the Royal Marines do not operate the policy on a day-to-day basis. She claims there are chefs serving with the Royal Marines who are not required to be fighting soldiers.

The Ministry of Defence is disputing her claim on the basis that "inter-operability is vital if the marines' combat effectiveness is not to be undermined". Yesterday the tribunal was shown recruitment brochures and watched two training videos.

The ministry has already paid £50 million to about 3,700 former servicewomen forced to end their careers when they became pregnant. That breached European equal opportunities legislation.

The hearing continues.



Angela Sirdar is claiming sexual discrimination against the Ministry of Defence

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Tories must play up their strength, not parade their weakness

Sensible parties do not talk about what divides them, but then the Tories are not in a sensible mood. If the Tories were serious, and self-disciplined, about winning a fifth term, they would forget about a single currency. There is absolutely no possibility of a re-elected Conservative Government taking Britain in during the next parliament, and an increasingly remote chance that a Blair administration would do either. Every time the subject is mentioned, it merely exposes Tory divisions and distracts attention away from the party's strengths, such as Kenneth Clarke's attempt

last night to argue that the current inflation is sustainable without pushing up inflation.

First, we have the Foreign Secretary's remark that the Cabinet was "on balance hostile" to a single currency dismissed as a "slip of the tongue" by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; then the Health Secretary contradicts the Cabinet's "wait and see" policy before rapidly issuing a statement of clarification, with the Chancellor again saying everyone in the Cabinet agrees. It is, of course, possible that two such shrewd politicians as Malcolm Rifkind and Stephen Dorrell were affec-

ted by the same outbreak of selective memory. But it is a coincidence that Lady Bracknell might remark upon.

There are a variety of explanations. Mr Rifkind and Mr Dorrell may just have been blurring out the truth about the chances of British entry. But that is to assume a naivete than neither has possessed for a very long time. They are both well aware of the agonising that preceded the Cabinet's carefully crafted compromises.

Mr Clarke's allies suspect that the two ministers are deliberating raising the issue now so that they can gradually push the policy further in a sceptic direction to make it clear that there is absolutely no chance of British membership in the next parliament. Mr Clarke has, of course, been firmly resisting such pressure, but the nearer that election day comes the harder it will be for Mr Clarke to exercise the nuclear threat of resignation.

Of course, the real argument is about the direction of the Tory party after the election. It is fascinating how eager the various

leadership contenders are to court MPs, candidates in winnable seats and journalists. But while Mr Rifkind's stock is still rising as he conducts his tour of European capitals, Mr Dorrell's is in danger of collapsing. His burst of candour on Sunday was the third such incident this year, which is surprising for someone previously regarded as a good communicator and safe pair of hands. Moreover, Mr Dorrell has done himself no good with the pro-European Tory MPs who were previously among his staunchest allies.

It is fashionable to regard the Tory pro-Europeans as a dying

species, but they are far from extinct. Admittedly, several of the Heath generation of pro-Europeans are retiring, but many are not. Even outside the current Cabinet, Peter Brooke and John MacGregor are prominent among those staying on. Several of the new MPs in safe seats are on that wing. So the battle is not over and a number of Tory pro-Europeans have said they will not back an outright anti-European line by May 1 that will remind voters of the Tories' deep divisions. It is the politics of self-destruction.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour promises to prosecute offenders under 14

By FRANCES GIBB AND STEWART TENDLER

A LABOUR government would reverse the law under which children aged between 10 and 13 are presumed to be incapable of evil, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said yesterday.

"This doctrine defies common sense," he said. "Most young people aged 10-13 are clearly capable of knowing the difference between right and wrong. I think the present situation is mad. Kids get the idea they can get away with things and then at 15 or 16 they get into real trouble."

Mr Straw was pre-empting a Green Paper to be published today by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Mr Howard is expected to outline plans for curfews and fines on parents

who refuse to control their delinquent children.

But Labour challenged him on why he is unwilling to scrap the common law principle that gives children some protection from the criminal law. Mr Straw outlined a six-point plan to tackle youth crime, including proposals to abolish the medieval *doli incapax* rule, which presumes that children over ten — the age of criminal responsibility — but under 14 do not know right from wrong unless proved otherwise. The Government has had the rule under review since 1995.

Mr Straw said: "This legal presumption makes it very difficult for youth courts to convict younger offenders

and start the process of changing their offending behaviour."

But Mr Howard dismissed Labour's plan, saying that children could not use the *doli incapax* rule to escape criminal responsibility altogether. "If, for example, someone in that age group torn down a bus shelter, they would find it extraordinarily difficult to suggest that they didn't know that was something that was wrong to do, so this would make no difference whatsoever," he told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*.

He said that the House of Lords had ruled some time ago that the matter should be reviewed. "We've been looking at it, keeping it under review, listening to what the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers have to say."

In his defence of the rule, he also found himself, for once, in agreement with the Penal Affairs Consortium. Paul Cavadias, chairman of the consortium, said: "Legal safeguards for children aged 10 to 13 should not be eroded. Labour's proposals would mean that children aged 10 to 13 were open to the full force of the criminal law at a much earlier age than in other west European countries." It would be a retrograde step and should not be done unless it

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British firms face fee for envoys' role in clinching deals

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A PLAN to charge companies which use British ambassadors to secure lucrative contracts abroad is being examined by the Government.

The proposal to put a price on the success of senior diplomats in business deals is one of a series of options being considered by a Cabinet Office study. It reflects the growing influence of ambassadors in chasing vital contracts overseas and lobbying foreign ministers in favour of British industry.

The image of our man abroad in a panama hat and white shorts no longer fits the cut-throat diplomatic business of attracting new jobs and investment to Britain. A senior Foreign Office official said last week: "Diplomats are getting a buzz from seeing those contracts signed."

In recent deals for Britain, senior diplomats have worked closely with business leaders to win contracts. Among the successes is the £1 billion British Aerospace contract with the Australian Government for Hawk trainer jets which was pursued by Sir Roger Carrick, the High Commissioner in Canberra.

Another £1 billion deal was won in China for BP where Sir Len Appleyard, the Ambassador, is credited with clinching the contract. Similarly Chris Wilson, the Consul-General in Dubai, helped to secure a £300 million contract for Rolls-Royce engines.

The Government is checking whether this high-level involvement of diplomats is

appropriate, and whether the range of services on offer to companies of all sizes is sufficient to help industry and boost exports.

The study has been set up by Sir Peter Levine, who heads the Prime Minister's efficiency unit. He wanted to examine the Foreign Office's range of activities in commerce and to identify more opportunities for businessmen to move into key posts in embassies.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has announced that a future Labour government would appoint businessmen as ambassadors to key trading nations.

The Foreign Office already charges companies for a range of services from market intelligence to support at trade fairs abroad and tip-offs about export opportunities. The fees were introduced to stop time-wasting inquiries.

One Whitehall source said that charging had improved services offered by the Foreign Office. "It concentrates the mind when you are preparing a brief if you know a company is going to pay £500 for the information. There is more motivation to get it right." Revenue from the charges was about £1 million last year, a negligible amount compared with the multimillion-pound investment into Britain from overseas companies.

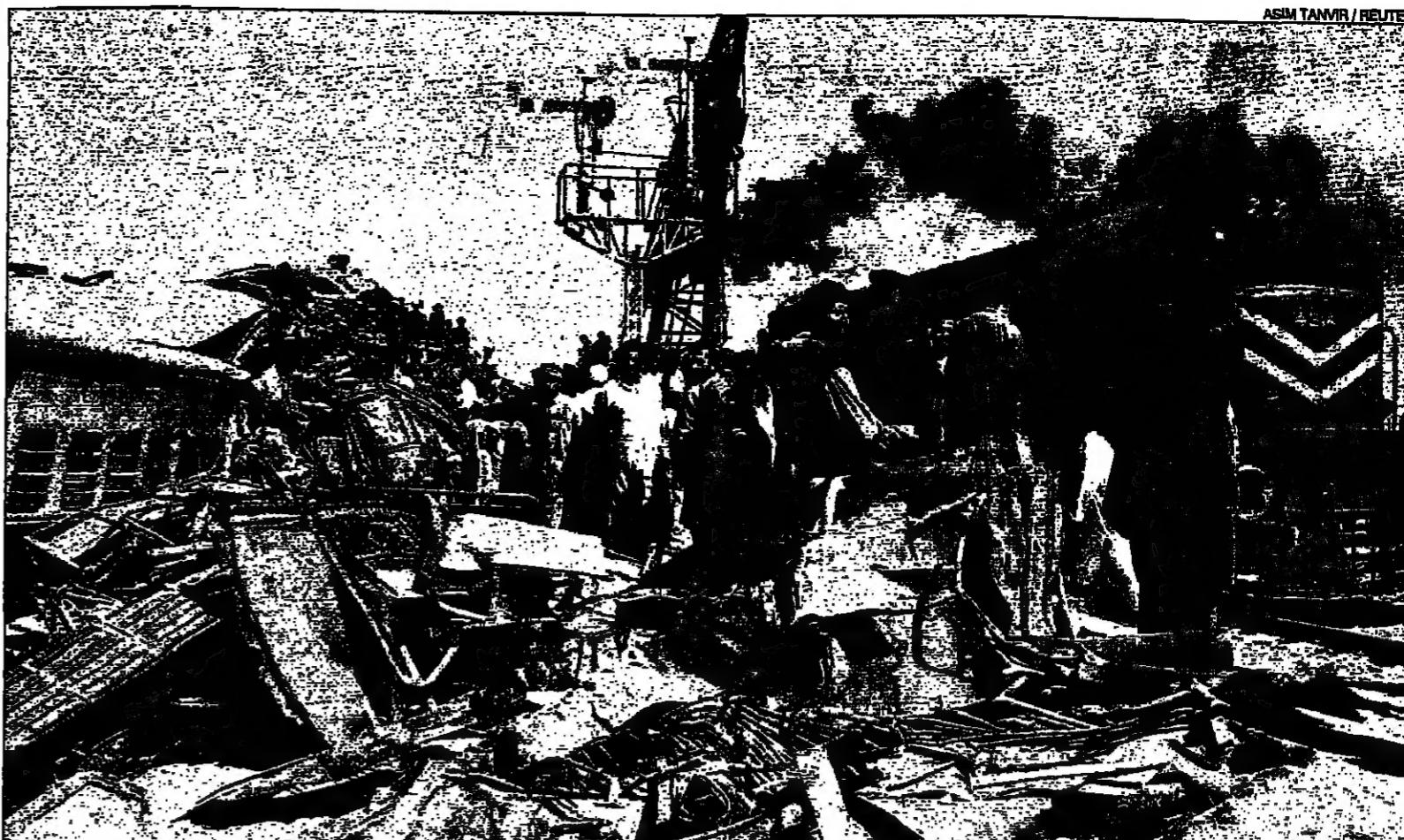
Tom Harris, the former Ambassador to South Korea, is to take up the post of director-general of export promotion this month. He will head the joint team that works

together in a special export unit in the Department of Trade and Industry. New trade campaigns are to focus on Japan, Latin America and Central Europe while, closer to home, Italy is also being targeted.

The Government's decision to boost this work was enhanced by a recent National Audit Office survey which said that, for every pound spent on government support for business, £78 was returned.

The new business approach at the Foreign Office featured recently in a speech by Sir John Coles, Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, who signalled the "sea change" in the way embassies operate. He noted that last year the Foreign Office had attracted 48,000 new jobs to Britain and that diplomats spent 35 per cent of their time on commercial interests.

Leading article, page 17

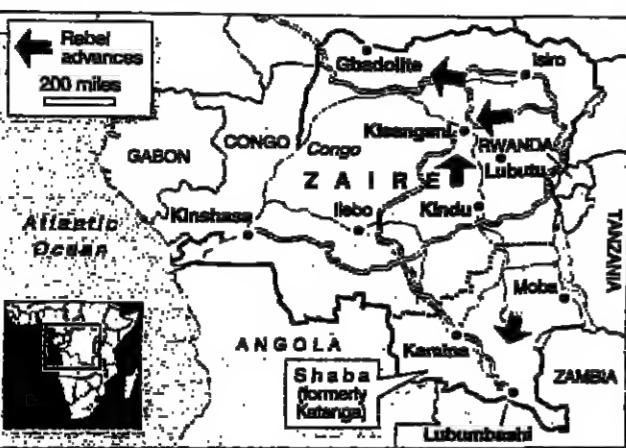


Runaway train crash kills 125

Rescue workers try to free trapped passengers after at least 125 people were killed and 175 injured when a crowded train jumped the track in the eastern Pakistani province of Punjab yesterday. Hundreds of passengers were trapped when the

brakes of the train, which was travelling at 60mph, failed before dawn near Khanewal station. It was switched to a dead-end line to stop it

from ramming another passenger train head-on. The 17-carriage train, en route from Peshawar in North West Frontier Province to the southern port city of Karachi, was carrying more than 1,500 passengers. Most were asleep at the time. More than 1,500 people have died in accidents on Pakistan's badly managed and outdated rail system in the past few years.



Aid workers forced to flee Kisangani

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S rebel leader begged the United Nations to help Rwandan Hutu refugees to return home after he overran their camp in eastern Zaire in a weekend offensive that left government forces reeling.

Kisangani yesterday looked unlikely to hold out long against the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire after guerrillas marched into Lubutu and Kindu. They had met little resistance from government troops or Hutu militiamen who had been among 170,000 refugees in Tingi-Tingi camp close to Lubutu.

Aid workers were evacuated to Kinshasa, the capital, on charter aircraft after being threatened by mercenaries who had formed the "white legion", many of them Serbs who were recruited this year to defend Zairean territory.

The mercenaries have had limited success and are defeated by government forces because they earn \$2,000 (£1,230) a month, compared with a soldier's basic wage of \$2 a month.

The rebels also stepped up their operations in Shaba

province and, in the far north of Zaire, claimed to be marching on President Mobutu's palace in Gbadolite.

According to the *Zambia Daily Mail*, deserting government soldiers have begun to trickle into Zambia's northern Copperbelt and Luapula provinces after fleeing the rebels. If this turns out to be true, it shows that the rebels also threaten Lubumbashi, capital of Shaba province.

Michelle Quintaglie, a spokeswoman for the UN World Food Programme who was in Kisangani last week, said she did not believe that the town would hold out long against the rebels. "I also can't see the mercenaries hanging around there to get killed," she said.

The agency was trying to monitor the movements of 170,000 Hutus from Tingi-Tingi camp who were seen from the air walking north towards Kisangani, 150 miles away.

Mr Kabila said that he wanted the UN to help him to find the refugees and supply them with enough food for the long march back to Rwanda.

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British
trade in
torture
attacked

Shoot-to-kill crackdown in Albania

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN TIRANA

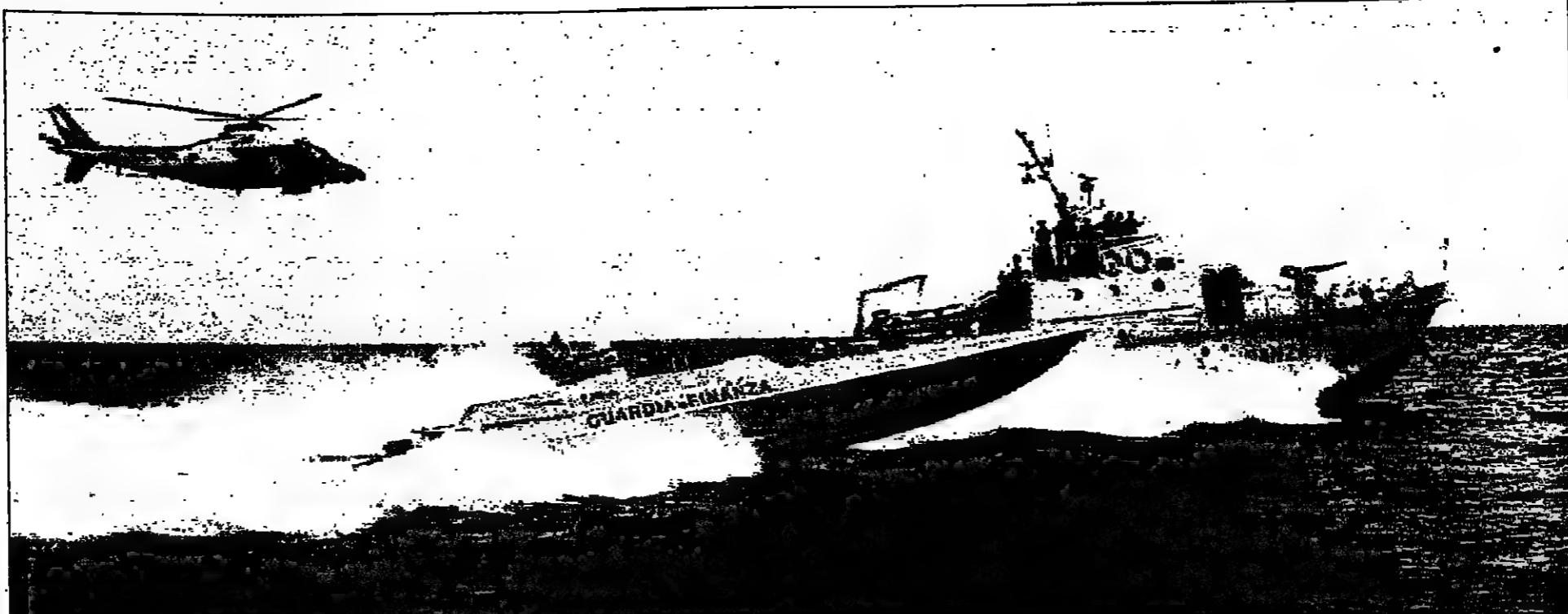
PRESIDENT Berisha was re-elected by Albania's rubber-stamp parliament yesterday and immediately moved to crush the armed rebellion against his rule in the south with an "iron fist", ordering security forces to open fire on protesters who failed to lay down looted weapons.

Opposition leaders advised supporters to stay indoors in what amounts to martial law. But, in the port of Vlore and other southern towns, lawlessness prevailed. Gunfire filled the streets as people let loose volleys from weapons captured from police arsenals. "We are the government," thousands chanted in Vlore. But they called off a planned armed march on the capital "for fear of more bloodshed".

Parliament, dominated by Mr Berisha's Democratic Party, voted on Sunday night for the state of emergency after an explosion of violence. Protesters overran police stations and army barracks and seized weapons. In Vlore and Sarande, protesters controlled the streets. Mr Berisha's summer villa above Vlore was looted and set on fire.

Many Albanians blame the President and his party for failing to control fraudulent pyramid schemes in which tens of thousands have lost all their money. The revolt has gradually evolved into an uprising, and Mr Berisha's re-election — by MPs under the constitution — angered those who want him to step down or be put on trial.

Emergency regulations issued yesterday include a dusk-to-dawn curfew and restrictions on press freedom, with strict censorship. Any group of more than four people in the street will be regarded as an illegal gathering, and police have power to detain suspects for 48 hours



Italian coastguards patrol off Brindisi yesterday as fears grew of a mass arrival of Albanians. In 1991 tens of thousands of refugees crowded onto ferries and homemade rafts

without explanation or re-dress. Roadblocks appeared on all roads to the south.

No Albanian newspapers appeared yesterday. The offices of the main opposition newspaper, *Koha Jone*, were burnt and ransacked on Sunday night. Ben Blushi, the editor, said 30 suspected secret police agents attacked with blowtorches. The paper would try to publish on underground presses to overcome "this information blackout".

The re-election of Mr Berisha for a five-year term was a foregone conclusion, given that his party has 122 of parliament's 140 seats. But it was not the happy event for which he might have hoped when first elected in 1992: troops with automatic weapons blocked off the scruffy gardens in front of the neo-classical building. Inside,

Democratic MPs — the ten Socialist members who boycotted parliament — stood and chanted "Sali Berisha". He vowed in his acceptance speech to "crush this uprising by Red terrorists". Heavy security prevented protests across Tirana. At one stage,

defiant last editorial, "If we must die, let it not be like pigs ... there will be no peace in Vlore or in Albania while Berisha is in power".

Onlookers surrounding a car accident in the central Skanderbeg Square threatened to develop into a crowd big enough to stage a demonstration, but police appeared to disperse them. "This is the death knell of Berisha's hopes," said *Koha Jone* in a

reporters and broadcasters — many of whom have been assaulted by secret police agents — were ordered to leave Vlore by yesterday afternoon. The Government accuses Western broadcasters of exacerbating the situation by transmitting direct TV pic-

tures. Many Albanians have satellite dishes, or watch Italian and Greek television.

Albanians said they were having difficulty hearing the widely trusted BBC Albanian Service. "We need the BBC more than ever," said Eduard, 20, a student on hunger strike. "Albania is closed to the outside world again."

Diplomats said it was not clear to what extent Mr Berisha could rely on the army of 60,000 men, a third of whom are conscripts. Their discipline is uncertain and — like the police — many have suffered pyramid fund losses. The only reliable force is the secret police, or Shik. Its agents can be seen patrolling Tirana's streets at night with automatic weapons.

Europe's conscience, page 16
Photograph, page 26



President Berisha: pledge to rout "this rebellion"

Italy mobilises anti-immigrant force to repel Adriatic exodus

BY JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALBANIA's neighbours were on alert last night as President Berisha moved to stamp out the rebellion. Italy began evacuating foreigners from the troubled southern city of Vlore, and put its navy on maximum alert. Greece stopped its ferry service to Albania and stepped up patrols along its northern frontiers.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said that two of its Chinook helicopters landed at Vlore and airlifted 36 European citizens, including ten journalists.

Giuseppe Mazzitello, the Prefect of Bari, who is also Italy's Special Commissioner for Immigration Emergencies, mobilised thousands of coastguards, police, customs officials and paramilitary Carabinieri to head off the expected human tide.

Italian officials believe that bad

weather in the Adriatic has so far prevented attempts to escape the turmoil en masse but the risk of an influx will increase as calm seas arrive. "The progressive improvement in the weather could unleash a biblical exodus from Albania to the south," the Ansa Italian news agency said.

Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, summoned a meeting of his inner Cabinet at Palazzo Chigi amid growing concern of an

exodus of Albanians. Among those present were Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, Beniamino Andreatta, the Defence Minister, and Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister. An influx of Albanian refugees in 1991 led to weeks of rioting and clashes with police in the port of Bari. The city became a battlefield after 20,000 mainly barefoot Albanians arrived in the port aboard the *Vlore*, a rusting hulk.

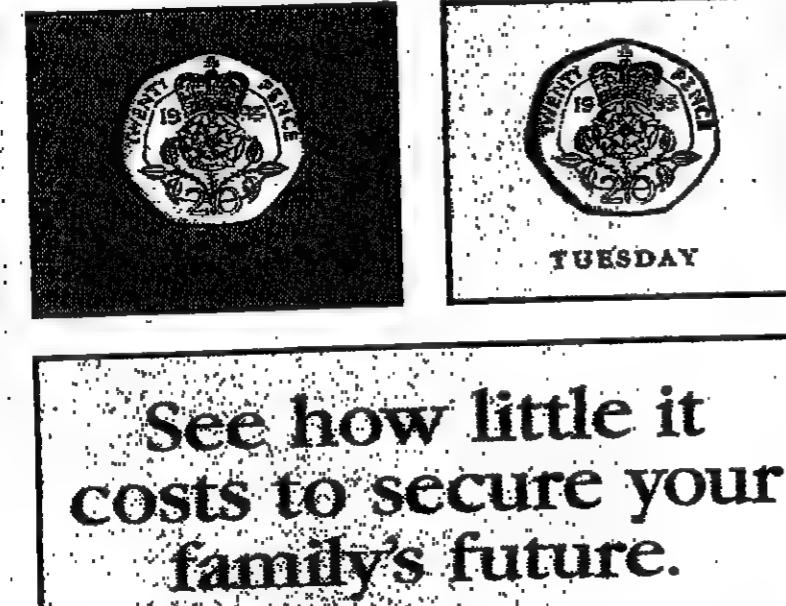
Opposition politicians accused

Sigmar Dini of ignoring the Mafia's disastrous penetration of Albania from southern Italy. Luciano Violante, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, said: "The Italian underworld has been operating in Albania and therefore we, too, have contributed to the situation there."

Massimo D'Alema, the leader of the dominant Democratic Party of the Left, formerly the Communists, said Italy should do "everything possible to stabilise the situation in

Albania, including providing financial aid to help the Tirana Government to compensate Albanians who suffered at the hands of a huge Mafia-inspired financial fraud.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tirana, Mgr Rrok Mirdita, urged Italy to intervene to stem the bloodshed "to avoid the worst". He said: "At this point the Albanians need a point of reference. I ask Prime Minister Prodi to intervene directly in the Albanian affair."



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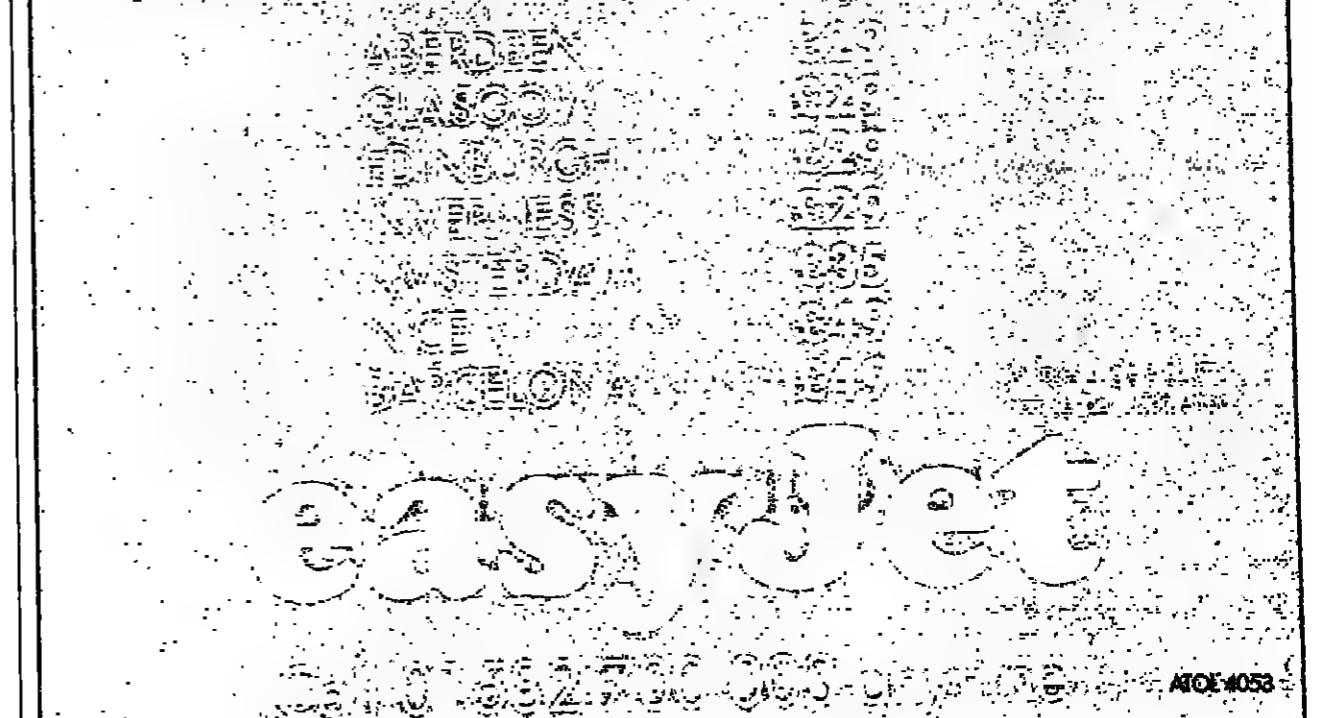
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Secret police play by old rules

BY JAMES PITTNER

IN ALL Balkan countries, the knock on the door in the night is nothing new. The Sultan needed to know about events in his sprawling domains as Barry Unsworth showed in *Pascal's Island*, his novel of Ottoman espionage.

In 1930, Albania, King Zog had a British officer "gendarme" whose main role was political. When Enver Hoxha's Communists seized power in 1944, intelligence was vital and the feared Sigurimi secret police were born. Under 50 years of dictatorship, the Sigurimi mushroomed into a vast network of spies and informers that even encouraged children to tell on their parents.

According to President Berisha's myth, swallowed after 1992 by Western leaders, the new Shik National Information Agency had broken with such traditions. First America, then Germany, provided assistance. But it seems the old leopard had not changed its spots.

Shik, answerable directly to the President, has recruited young men from northern Albania, often from the President's home area, and kitted them out in designer leather jackets. There are allegations of Mafia connections and it is said to have played a key part in last May's fraudulent elections.

The Opposition may not have clean hands. In communist times, Vlore was the centre of Sigurimi recruitment, and Tirana government allegations that old networks have been activated to arm demonstrators cannot be dismissed completely.

The West's belief that strong presidencies foster Balkan stability ignores the fact that unaccountable police organisations flourish under such leaders. President Berisha's Albania is no exception. If there is a bloodbath, there will be difficult questions to answer in Western chanceries, notably Bonn.

Hong Kong journalists forbidden to criticise China after handover



FROM JONATHAN MIRSYE
IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S new Chief Executive has indicated that the press under Chinese rule will have the same restraints as on the mainland. Tung Chee-hwa told CNN that after July 1 the press must avoid "slanderous or derogatory remarks or personal remarks". Offensive comments are "certainly not in the Chinese culture". China's press often vilifies the regime's enemies both internally and abroad, calling Chris Patten, the outgoing Governor, a whore, for example. Mr

Tung's warning echoes earlier threats by Qian Qichen, the Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, and Lu Ping, Chairman of the Hong and Macau Office, both of whom have said the press would not be allowed to criticise Chinese leaders.

This view was contested by Tsang Tak Sing, chief editor of *Ta Kung Pao*, the leading Beijing-supported paper. Both Mr Qian and Mr Lu, he said, "are unaware of the operational facts, they are not journalists". Mr Tsang said: "It's impossible for a newspaper to criticise a policy without criticising the man who

made it." Mr Tung endorsed a ban on attacks on national leaders by noting that in Hong Kong it is forbidden to make slanderous remarks about the Queen. Asked when anyone had been prosecuted for such an offence, Mr Tung replied: "There will be laws in Hong Kong; these laws will be obeyed."

Elsie Leung, appointed by Mr Tung to be his first Justice Secretary, has also said that after July 1, calling out "Down with Premier Li Peng" may be an offence.

Chinese officials in Hong Kong have condemned as interference the proposal by 24 American congress-

men that Hong Kong journalists could be granted visas if they feel threatened after July 1. Carol Lai, vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists' Association, said that many of her members felt uncertain about the future.

In a move likely to attract lawsuits, China's Provisional Legislative Council for Hong Kong is to debate and pass laws long before July 1, when it becomes the official law-making body. Hong Kong would therefore have two legislatures simultaneously passing laws which could be contradictory.

Rita Fan, the provisional council's

president, said the body would debate and pass laws which would be signed after the handover by Mr Tung. She said she expected China's National People's Congress, now meeting in Beijing, to give the provisional body the right to legislate.

Mr Tung has said repeatedly that the provisional council should gain this right but has commented that receiving the congress's instructions would be "like receiving A-plus when you already have an A". The provisional group is already meeting in Shenzhen.

Martin Lee, chairman of the

leading article, page 6

Portillo pins hopes on howitzer deal to boost trade in US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE United States Marine Corps is on the verge of placing an order worth several hundred million dollars for howitzers from British companies in partnership with American firms. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday on a two-day visit here.

Vickers, working with US manufacturer Textron, and British Aerospace, working with United Defence, have emerged as the remaining two contenders for supplying the lightweight howitzers, due for delivery around 2000. Britain hopes that the deal will be worth far more as the US Army may follow suit.

The howitzer sale would help to correct an imbalance in defence procurement between Britain and the United States, which is a central theme of Mr Portillo's talks with William Cohen, the new Defence Secretary, as well as the National Security Council, the Pentagon and members of Congress.

Britain has about \$4 billion (£2.46 billion) in outstanding orders from US defence companies, compared with \$1 billion US orders from British companies.

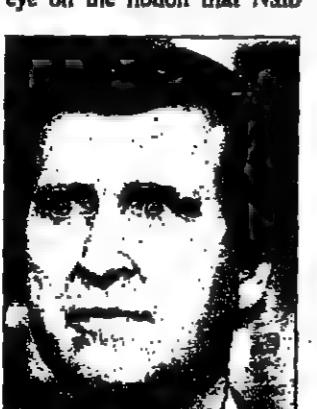
Britain has been concerned that big orders from the US military go almost invariably to domestic companies, as occurred with the recent purchase of air-to-air missiles.

Mr Portillo called yesterday for procurement to be a "two-

way street". His visit marks the first meeting between Mr Cohen, the sole Republican in President Clinton's Cabinet, and a representative of another Nato country. Mr Portillo said yesterday that he thought it was "still realistic" to hope that terms for enlarging the North Atlantic alliance would be agreed by July.

However, the question of whether a European or an American would command Nato's southern forces remains "quite delicate at this point", Mr Portillo said. The French Government has insisted that a European officer must be in charge of the Southern Command if France is to rejoin an integrated Nato command structure.

Mr Portillo also cast a cold eye on the notion that Nato



Cohen: talks focused on arms trade imbalance

Oklahoma suspect 'did not confess'

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE chief lawyer representing Timothy McVeigh, the leading suspect for the Oklahoma City bombing, last night accused a newspaper of stealing the defence's computer files to publish an alleged confession to America's worst act of terrorism.

Stephen Jones, calling for a federal investigation into the matter, said the *Dallas Morning News* had hacked into his computer system and retrieved a document which was not legitimate testimony by Mr McVeigh.

The newspaper, in a story it said was based on summaries of interviews between the defendant and his lawyers, claimed that Mr McVeigh, 28, had admitted the bombing on April 19, 1995, which killed 168 adults and children.

He was reported to have planned a daytime attack to guarantee a "body count". The paper said yesterday that it would publish no further documents in response to concerns that more reports could jeopardise Mr McVeigh's chances of a fair trial in Denver at the end of this month.

"They knew, or they should have known, that they had stolen documents," said Mr Jones. "It is not a confession by Tim McVeigh, it was not then, it is not now." Mr Jones cited a gagging order by Richard Matsch, the judge trying the case, which prevented him from revealing any further details.



The "cloned" monkeys at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Centre

Scientists make monkeys by cloning technology

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN scientists have "cloned" a monkey and hope next to produce a laboratory "supercow".

Last month's announcement from Scotland that scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh had produced a cloned sheep has been widely covered in America. The news sparked an immediate response from the Oregon Regional Primate Research Centre, which announced that it had "cloned" two rhesus monkeys. The "nuclear transfer" procedure was similar to that used by Dr Ian Wilmut in Edinburgh.

The Oregon scientists said that their success was the first artificial reproduction of animals so closely related to humans.

The scientists first developed several embryos using in-vitro fertilisation treatment.

When these were just eight cells in size, they were split and grown separately, before being transplanted into a female chimpanzee's womb.

The American biologists are working in an academic system that is intensely competitive and in which a well-publicised experiment more than ever before, can bring financial and professional rewards.

Barbara Koenig, a senior scientist at Stanford University, said that since news

of the researchers' claimed that the successful production of the monkeys — which, complete with tattooed identification numbers, will be looked after by their surrogate mothers — may assist medical research.

Dr Neal First, from the University of Wisconsin, in America's dairy belt, said his laboratory technicians were optimistic about producing a cloned dairy cow that would be able to produce 40,000lb of milk a year. Dr First hopes that such a productive milk cow could increase profits for American farmers. A calf is expected in the next ten months.

The American biologists are working in an academic system that is intensely competitive and in which a well-publicised experiment more than ever before, can bring financial and professional rewards.

Barbara Koenig, a senior scientist at Stanford University, said that since news

of the latest achievements.

A *Time* magazine poll suggested that 89 per cent of US citizens consider cloning to be wrong, a statistic that is likely to rise in the light of remarks from religious leaders, including the influential Cardinal John O'Connor of New York.

The Roman Catholic de-

nounced cloning as "morally repugnant".

broke off the Roslin Institute's success. "It has been cloning hell around here". Such is the rush for a follow-up to Dolly, the much-discussed Scottish sheep.

At the same time, Hollywood has reacted quickly to the cloning breakthrough, displaying similar competitive zeal to the folk in white coats. Producers are said to be falling over themselves in the hunt for a good cloning film script and there will be rich opportunities for film consultants with cloning expertise.

In the real world, however, Americans appear to have grave doubts about the ethics of the latest achievements.

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nounced cloning as "morally repugnant".

007 defeated

Hanoi: Vietnamese authorities have refused to allow the next James Bond movie, starring Pierce Brosnan, to be filmed either on the spectacular beaches of Halong Bay or in Ho Chi Minh City. There were "many reasons", said a ministry official. (AFP)

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Australians catching up

Sydney: Australian scientists claim they are not far behind their Scottish counterparts in cloning domestic livestock (Roger Maynard writes).

Dr Kevin Ward, head of genetic engineering at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, said: "Most of the technology is in place, just not the fine detail." Australian scientists are known to have been working on cloning for many years, but it is in genetic manipulation that they may make the greatest impact.

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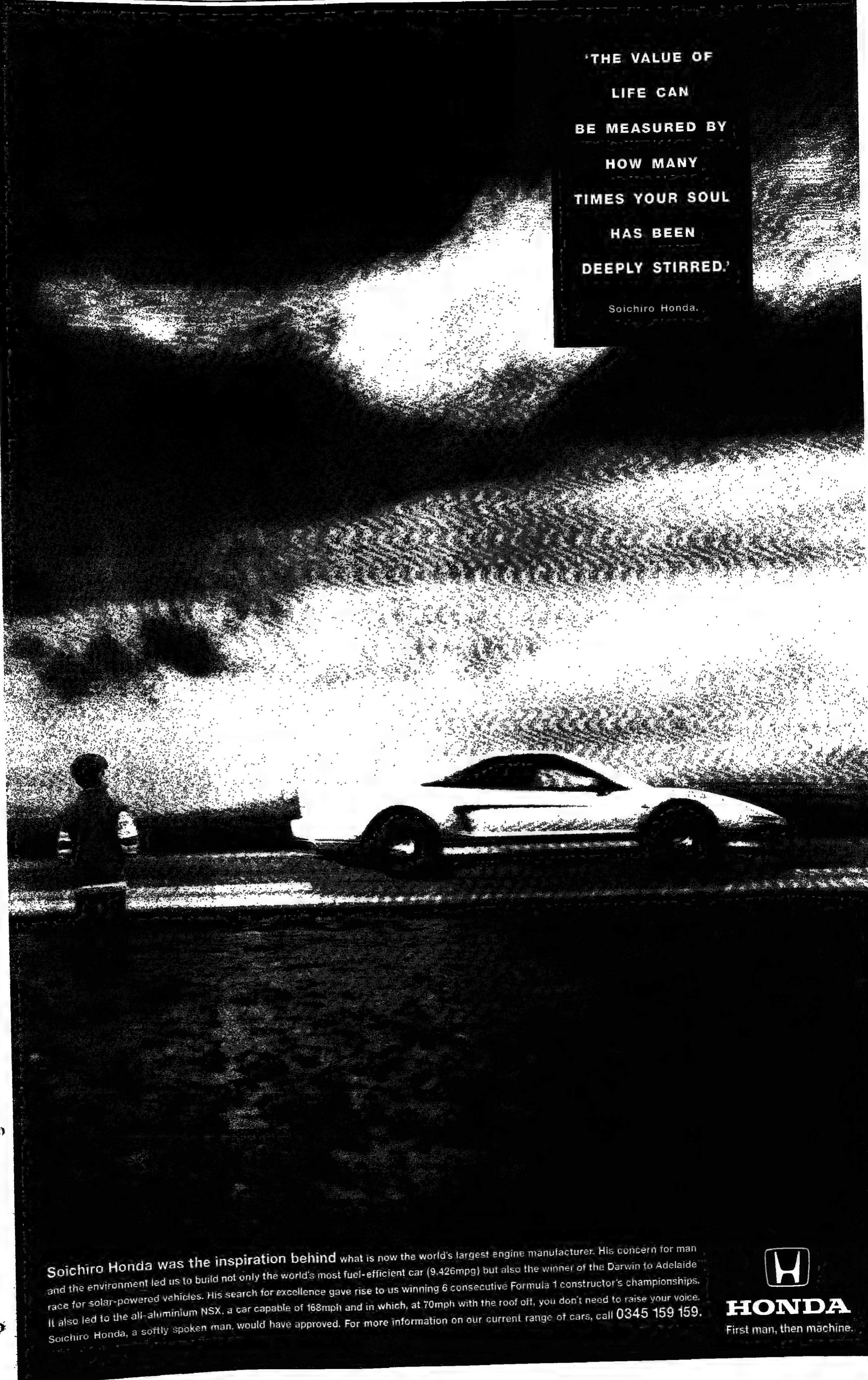
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To have — and to have not

HARRY GRUYAERT/MAGNUM

A kind of apartheid exists between those who become parents and those who don't, and both sides feel genuinely hard done by, says Rachel Morris

Ever there were two groups in our society divided by misunderstanding, it is those who do not. Sometimes it can seem that there is a gulf in lifestyle and attitude between the two big enough to consume a fleet of baby buggies.

While the majority of women slide, with varying degrees of consciousness, into parenthood and others find it hard to conceive, there have — at least since contraceptives provided a choice — always been women who have chosen not to become mothers. Statisticians call these refuseniks the voluntarily childless.

A government forecast last year predicted that in 20 years one woman in five at the age of 45 will not have had children. This is partly because many women are postponing childbirth (and are thus hitting fertility problems), but also because some women are choosing not to have them at all.

This forecast has been prompted by a report from the Family Policy Studies Centre, which will be published later this year. If the numbers of refuseniks are increasing — as statisticians think is the case — then what was once seen as an eccentric choice may soon seem quite ordinary. And yet the gulf in lifestyles between the two groups is likely to remain as wide as ever.

Because no one ever tells you when you make your choice — for or against children — that you choose will largely determine where you live, how you live, and whom you know. A kind of apartheid exists between those who have children and those who do not — at least while the children are growing up — an apartheid, which seems so natural, that most of us don't even notice it.

From the parents' point of view, the process goes as follows: the upper-floor flat in town where you had always lived begins to feel cramped. You start to wince at cramp funnels and to crave green, open spaces.

The local schools, which previously had seemed adequate, now begin to worry you. Before you know where you are, you are casting envious eyes over property

further out, or even in the country, looking all the time to live close to good schools.

And so you make the move but the process does not end there because once your children start school you find that your life is locked into the timetable of the school day. Harassed by the difficulties of working and bringing up the children, you accept as your friends the parents of your children's friends because there isn't any time to keep up with anybody else.

Next your children begin to want other children's company on holiday, and since you want help with the babysitting it seems easiest to go on holiday with other parents. A

few years down the line and you find that you live, socialise and holiday largely with other families, and that you only meet childless people at work.

The childless are not so locked into the system — freedom being one of the reasons they give for staying that way — but even they respond to the ghettoisation process. A current property trend in London is to convert office buildings into loft spaces. The Manhattan Loft Corporation has three central London sites, aimed at professional couples and single people, and with no more than a handful of children living in them.

Given how separately the groups live, it is not surprising that misunderstandings proliferate. A

trawl of my friends with children produced a litany of complaints, all circling round the lack of understanding on the other side — that childless friends will not invite you out to lunch, but only to supper, although they know you cannot afford a baby sitter, or that they invite you out to dinner and then do not understand why you have to leave at 11.15 to relieve that baby sitter.

But then complaints of lack of sensitivity are rife on the other side as well. Christine is childless and runs her own hairdressing salon. Into the salon one day came a friend and her child. The little boy did not want a haircut and threw a temper tantrum; the upshot was that he would only have his haircut if he could sit on a Hoover while it



While the majority of women slide with varying degrees of consciousness into parenthood, the numbers of those choosing to remain childless are increasing

was up and running. Since Christine was busy she opened her mouth to say "no" but before she could, the friend asked "So where's the Hoover?" because she had long ago got used to accommodating her child. The childless often genuinely find children rude. They are not accustomed to being interrupted and shouted down, and judging a two-year-old by adult standards, they find him offensive.

But those with children, having learnt to speak above a rising babble of shrieks and adroitly to pick up sentences abandoned in the middle, find the childless egocentric and inflexible. Mind you, put

the accusation of selfishness to the childless (as I did to a spokesman for the British Organisation of Non-Parents [Bon]) and he/she will sigh weary — because they're always being accused of selfishness — and counter by suggesting that the other side is jealous.

Those who have children are often curious about the other side. It is tempting to believe that those who do not want children must all have unhappy childhoods, and yet, while some have (to judge from the Bon newsletter) others clearly have not. In fact the Bon newsletter makes interesting reading because it shows how many misapprehensions are harboured by the other side as well.

It befalls unplanned pregnancies as being unwanted (although any woman who wants a baby will sigh weary — because they're always being accused of selfishness — and counter by suggesting that the other side is jealous).

It is not hard, even — or perhaps especially — for those with children, to see what these factors might be: rigid working hours, expensive, inadequate childcare, the glass ceiling — even to enumerate the problems makes one feel weary — and yet the basic reason against children is likely to remain opaque, unless of course you are a refusenik, in which case you will

understand it exactly. Living in a ghetto — whether with or without children — is dispiriting, but there is a gleam of comfort and that is that as the children grow up the ghetto walls may come down.

Consider again my childless friend Christine. Her closest friend Jane is the mother of two children. But Jane's children are grown up and these days Jane and Christine go out partying and holidaying together, and the fact that one has children and the other does not, no longer looms large between them.

• *Ella and the Mothers* by Rachel Morris is published by Sphere on April 17, £16.99.

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Canadian writing is coming into its own, says Erica Wagner

Heeding the voices from the attic

In recent weeks a slew of first novels has been published, each arriving with advance praise and each receiving, by and large, a very generous reception. *The Cure for Death by Lightning* by Gail Anderson-Dargatz (Viking, £9.99), *Icefields* by Thomas Wharton (Cape, £9.99), *Fugitive Pieces* by Anne Michaels (Bloomsbury, £14.99) and *Fall On Your Knees* by Ann-Marie MacDonald (Cape, £12.99). Steven Heighton's first collection of short stories, *Flight Paths of the Emperor* (Granta, £8.99), could also be added to this list of original new writers, all of whom have one thing in common: they are Canadian. No big deal? Not quite. Writing in February's issue of *Prospect*, magazine, Canada's pre-eminent author Margaret Atwood recalled her own beginnings: "The one good thing to be said about announcing yourself as a writer in the colonial Canadian is that nobody told me I could not do it because I was a girl."

"They simply found the entire proposition ridiculous. Writers were dead and English, or else extremely elderly and American; they were not 16 years old and Canadian."

But now, and certainly in part due to Atwood, to be a young Canadian author is no disadvantage at all. "Canadian writing has come an awful long way in my experience," says Dan Franklin, publishing director at Cape, "and there does seem to be this sudden flowering. One doesn't want to sound like Dr Johnson talking about women preaching, but it is remarkable. We have sold 12,000 copies of *Fall On Your Knees*, which is amazing for a first novel."

Carol Shields, whose novel *The Stone Diaries* won the Pulitzer Prize and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1993, agrees that there is something in the air. This year she was a judge of Canada's prestigious Giller Prize for fiction. Margaret Atwood's *After Grace* (Bloomsbury, £16.99) took the prize but Anderson-Dargatz, Michaels and MacDonald were all on the shortlist of five — an extraordinary proportion of first novels. "Everyone thinks this is something of a phenomenon," she says.

Arne-Marie MacDonald's novel is a courageous, adventuresome book, a family tale of four generations that has its beginnings in the remoteness of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Like her compatriots Wharton and Anderson-Dargatz, MacDonald embraces what to European eyes could seem a harsh and empty landscape. "It is a place where authentic things have happened," she says. "It's very much an inner landscape, of ghosts and memories and stories."

Wharton, whose mysterious, capivating *Icefields* is set at the turn of the century on the glaciers near Jasper, a remote settlement in the Canadian Rockies, found that he wished to "mimic something about the landscape in the language I was using — a glacier looks like a wasteland but underneath it is a magical place, there is so much hidden there."

Dr Lynette Hunter, who teaches Canadian literature at Leeds University, believes that this upsurge of talent is due in large part to government support of arts programmes across Canada.

But what makes these writers so exciting? What distinguishes their work from British or American novels? Although each is very different from the others, all share an ability to combine a strong narrative drive with a willingness to experiment with language — but not so radically as to alienate readers." Hunter notes.

Shields, who grew up in the United States but has spent the last 40 years in Canada, feels that at last Canada is building a literary history. "In Canada we didn't have a Mark Twain, or a David

Copperfield, which is the kind of thing that binds you together. But at the same time that lack of history allows you a different perspective, an ability to take a non-cynical

position and creates a willingness to take risks." Robertson Davies once called Canadian writing "a voice from the attic". It looks like that voice is coming downstairs for good.

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The McAlpine memoirs: Day Two – the most explosive political disclosures since the publication of Alan Clark's *Diaries*

EXCLUSIVE:
The memoirs
that are
devastating
the Tory
Party. Lord
McAlpine on
the 'greatest
and most
charismatic
peacetime
leader the
Conservative
Party has ever
had'

When I first came to Central Office, I had never been to a party conference and that first conference of Margaret Thatcher's period of leadership was not an easy introduction to these ritual gatherings. Edward Heath attended the conference, causing a considerable amount of tension, all of which was part of his general plan. He, like Jeffrey Sterling, believed that she would not last until Christmas.

It was thought by various advisers that Margaret Thatcher should go to Heath's suite for a drink for a semi-public reconciliation, a meeting that Willie Whitelaw was to arrange. Margaret Thatcher was all dressed up and waiting to go, but the call from Whitelaw never came. She waited and waited. Eventually Gordon Reece rang Heath's suite to speak to Whitelaw, who merely told him that the meeting was not on. Having sat waiting for a couple of hours, Margaret Thatcher was deeply upset. Tears filled her eyes, not at Heath's rejection of her attempts at peace, but at Whitelaw's casual attitude to the whole affair.

At that conference I can remember only too well the chairwoman of the Tory Ladies' Committee. She was in floods of tears because she had been asked to present Margaret Thatcher with a giant teddy on the last day of the conference. Margaret Thatcher's birthday. "I do not want to give anything to that woman," she said as the party's PR people tried to persuade her.

Her reaction was common among Tory activists. Traditional Tories hated Margaret Thatcher's hair, hated her voice, hated her accent and, indeed, many of them hated the whole idea of her. She was, like so many of them, a woman. Along with the feminists, they disliked her because she had achieved the leadership of the Tory Party while asking for no concessions as a female. As she embraced radical ideas, she was the very opposite of the sort of leader they wanted. In time, the activists learnt to love her. The feminists justified their position by pretending to themselves that really Margaret Thatcher was a man.

I was by now fully engaged in the business of raising money for the Conservatives. I was also responsible for arranging industrial conferences, where the various members of the Shadow Cabinet could address several hundred industrialists at a time.

Confessions of

THATCHER'S BAGMAN

but he is an honest and largely straightforward man, who actually believes in what he says. There is no trace of opportunism in him. The members of John Major's Cabinet do not compare very favourably with put alongside the likes of Jim Prior.

Working in Central Office during the 1979 election was a lot of fun – working anywhere is a lot of fun when you are winning. One Saturday, I was alone in my office during the campaigning when I heard an explosion. Gordon Reece entered, looking grim. Airey Neave had been murdered.

The day that Airey Neave was blown apart by Irish terrorists was a turning point in British politics. Airey and his wife, Diana, had been very kind to me and I was sad at his death. But at his funeral the following week there was a

feeling of excitement: the moment that Airey had played such a part in bringing to fruition had almost come.

Callaghan put to one side his intention of having an autumn election and his party, like a herd of cows, entered the fenced race track that led to defeat. The election of 1979 was, as I discovered later, much like any other election, except we, at the time, were doubtful as to whether the electorate would accept a woman as a prime minister.

They did, and by midnight on polling day, the Conservatives were streaming ahead.

It was as if the world had changed. Socialism was gone, and with it a whole attitude to life that we had come progressively to accept since the end of the war. I sat in my office alone with a pot of tea, watching television. Just before eleven o'clock, Margaret Thatcher came into my office. "I'm just off to the Palace, Alistair." "Good luck," I replied. Nearly 12 years later, I shook her hand as she returned from Buckingham Palace to my home in Great College Street, having resigned. I was, I suppose, the last person to see her before she set out to start her time as Prime Minister and the first person to greet her when she returned, having completed that time.

Thorneycroft and I were both invited to Chequers for lunch on Sunday along with the Cabinet. The lunch went well and afterwards we sat and talked in the rose garden. The new Prime Minister

walked with a member of the Cabinet among the trees. The rest of us watched from the terrace, excited as schoolboys who have just arrived at senior school. When the Prime Minister had finished with a particular secretary of state, he was returned to the group and another taken in his place.

Margaret Thatcher loved Chequers and, more perhaps than the house itself, she grew fond of the people who worked there. Over the years I visited Chequers often and I found that the place under her hand grew more and more like a home. When Margaret Thatcher left Downing Street to hand her resignation to the Queen, the press photographers caught tears in her eyes. Many believed that she cried for loss of office; I knew that she cried for the friends she left behind at Chequers and at 10 Downing Street.

"I'm just off to the Palace, Alistair." "Good luck," I replied. Nearly 12 years later, I shook her hand as she returned from Buckingham Palace to my home in Great College Street, having resigned. I was, I suppose, the last person to see her before she set out to start her time as Prime Minister and the first person to greet her when she returned, having completed that time.

On November 20, the first ballot was held. Margaret Thatcher had missed the necessary majority by two votes. She returned to London the next day. She intended to fight the next round, much to the surprise of many of her supposed supporters. They took the view that she must be persuaded not to commit this folly, to go quietly. It was a nasty moment for John Major when Margaret Thatcher put his hand to the fire by asking him to second her on the second ballot. His hesitation speaks more than a thousand words.

At lunchtime that day Tim Bell, Gordon Reece and myself lunched in the private room at Mark's Club. David English and Conrad Black joined us. We discussed what could be done, and Tim Bell tried to telephone John Major. Norma Major answered the phone and told him that her husband's mouth was too sore to speak to anyone which, in retrospect, seems surprising because he managed to speak to Margaret Thatcher later in the day and Jeffrey Archer appears to have had conversations with him as well. His reluctance to speak to Bell, who explained to Norma Major

that we were gathered together trying to help Margaret Thatcher, has always seemed strange. I cannot help wonder sometimes about his miraculous recovery the next day to fight his own campaign.

I was due to see Margaret Thatcher at seven o'clock that evening and then to take Denis out to dinner. The Prime Minister was late coming back to Downing Street. I sat with Charles Powell. At about 7.30 his telephone rang. It was a call from her office at the House of Commons. Would he please start drafting a resignation statement.

Twenty minutes later the doorman at Downing Street warned us that the Prime Minister was returning. She came through the front door and asked me to follow her to the lift. We went straight up to the flat where Denis was waiting. Denis offered me a drink and Margaret told him of the day's events. "One by one they came in and with a couple of exceptions, they all told me the same thing. Of course, they will support me but they will not campaign on my behalf and that I cannot win. Except for Ken Clarke. He was straightforward and

came to the point: he said I should go." "To hell with them, they don't deserve you," Denis remarked.

I do not think that the Conservative Parliamentary Party really knew what they had done. They were, I believe, caught up in a world of their own, a world from which they have not yet broken free. Only a considerable defeat will clear their heads and start them thinking again.

Lost in its own little world, the Conservative Parliamentary Party forced the resignation of its greatest peacetime leader, a woman who had won

TIM BELL
IN THE summer of 1978 the Director of Communications, Gordon Reece, introduced the firm of Saatchi & Saatchi to the Conservative Party. More importantly, he produced Tim Bell. He was like a breath of fresh air; his arguments were logical and well constructed, and the advertisements that his firm produced had humour as well as humanity.

Bell had an immediate rapport with Margaret Thatcher. It was not that he could or did persuade her to do anything, so much as that he could present what she did do in the best possible light.

The poster campaign "Labour isn't Working", which Bell produced, was brilliant. The poster so angered the Labour Party that they were vociferous in their complaints. Our poster made every front page of the newspapers, netting the party millions of pounds in free advertising. Bell and the Saatchi changed the political mood that summer, for the first time in many years, the Opposition went up in the polls and the Government down.

Reece was the *bête noire* of Baroness Young, my predecessor as deputy chairman. She regarded me as outrageous and Reece as quite beyond the pale. At a particular meeting she said: "Look at this bill. It's Gordon Reece's expenses. It is completely out of the question."

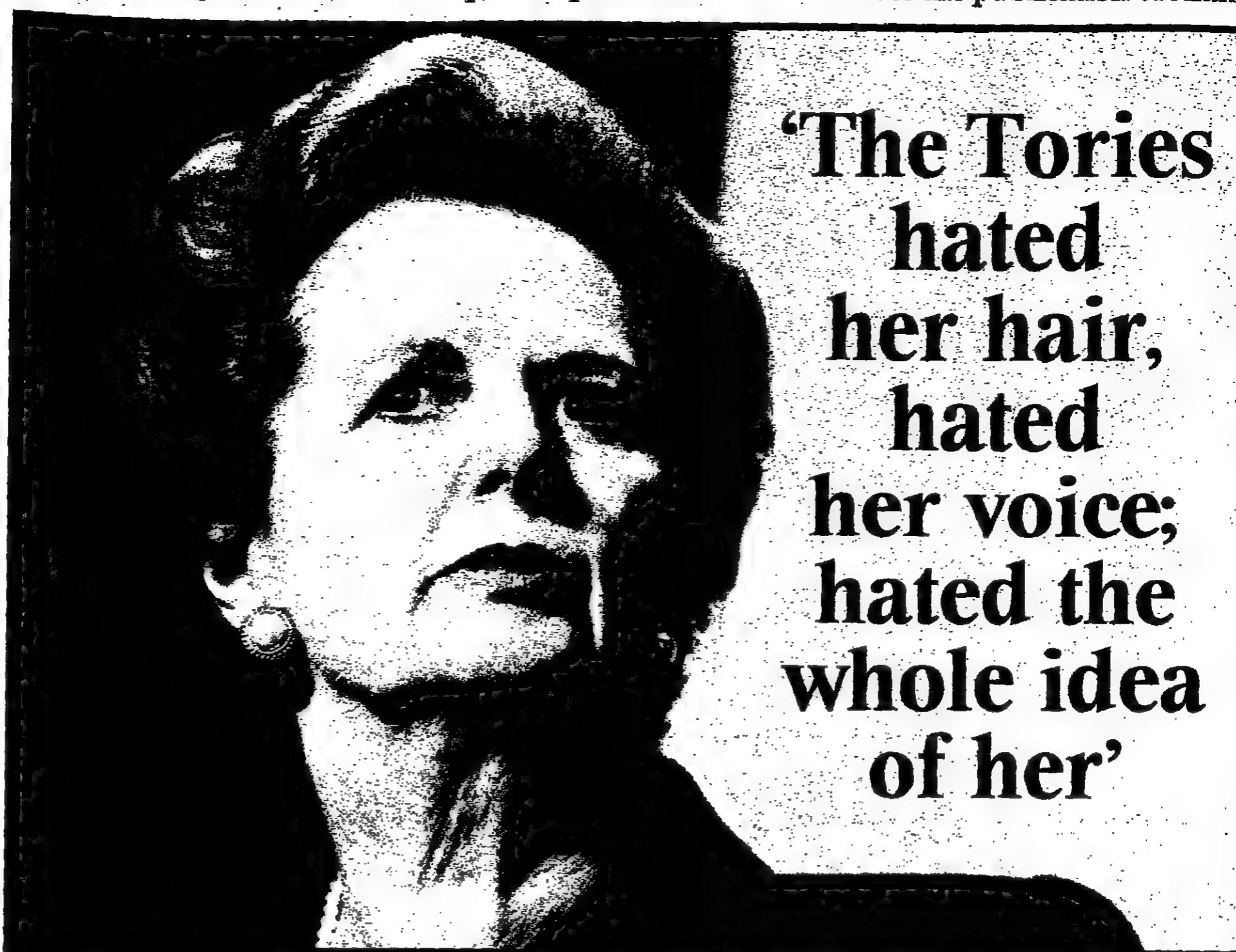
"Have you ever owned a Rolls-Royce, Jane?"

"No." "Well, if you had, you would realise that a Rolls-Royce uses a lot of petrol. Gordon Reece is a Rolls-Royce among publicists and he only runs on champagne."

three general elections and two leadership contests, being undefeated in a third. Not only did the Conservative Parliamentary Party dispense with the service of one of its greatest and most charismatic leaders, but they did this while she was still Prime Minister and the nation was at war.

• Extract from Once A Jolly Bagman by Alastair McAlpine (Confidential McAlpine, 1997, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on March 13 £20).

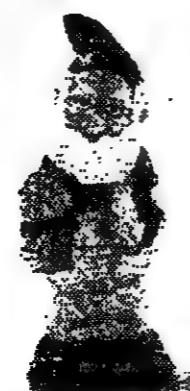
The Times readers can buy Once A Jolly Bagman: Memoirs of Alastair McAlpine for just £16 (a saving of £4) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0890 134439.



One of the remarkable things about Margaret Thatcher is that, in all the time I have known her, I have never heard her say a word to the personal detriment of even her most virulent enemies

'The Tories hated her hair, hated her voice; hated the whole idea of her'

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Is Albania on Europe's conscience?

Enver Hoxha haunts Berisha's
Tirana, reports Richard Owen

Europe has let us down," said an Albanian journalist bitterly as he surveyed the burnt-out ruin of the offices of the main opposition newspaper, ransacked and set on fire on Sunday night. "What is Europe doing? The EU is fiddling while Albania burns."

In the beginning, the EU represented a dream of prosperity and democracy which seemed within grasp; now, after two months of rioting over fraudulent pyramid schemes, Albania faces economic and political collapse, with lawlessness in the streets. Instead of blaming themselves, Albanians who gullibly invested all they had in shady funds are turning against the European Union.

They are also turning against Sali Berisha, the Western-backed President whose re-election yesterday by an obedient parliament may be a hollow victory, and may be followed by his overthrow. In the heady days after his ousting of the detested Communists in 1992, the gold stars of the EU were a ubiquitous symbol of hope, plastered on every wall and flown on every flagpole. Today, as Mr Berisha cracks down with a "shoot to kill" policy on an armed rising in the south of this mountainous Balkan country of 3.2 million people, the gold stars are looking tarnished.

It is becoming conventional wisdom in Tirana that the West, and the EU in particular, should have "done more" to help Albania make the difficult transition from the desperate poverty of the communists to pluralism and market forces. In vain do Western ambassadors in Tirana argue that they and the International Monetary Fund have repeatedly offered a cautious combination of technical expertise and investment. What was needed, critics say with hindsight, was an emergency aid programme to establish an infrastructure; decent roads rather than the rush to mobile phones and illusory quick riches.

Italian diplomats point out that Italy has at least tried to guide Albania, former Italian colony, into the 20th century. As the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, Piero Fassino, told me: "Many Albanian enterprises are backed by Italian money. But we have also quietly been trying to teach government and opposition to respect each other's legitimacy by getting them together for round-table debates."

This is the heart of the matter: all the former communist countries of south-eastern Europe, including Serbia and Bulgaria, have found the transition to democracy more problematic than the nations of Central Europe, where pre-communist democratic traditions linger. The EU, Albanians say bitterly, is prepared to spare time from its preoccupation with the single currency to welcome Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the Western fold, but the peasants of the Balkans are left outside the door.

In Albania, warden Fascists

Europe has not helped to break the secret police culture

The resort to force has one possibly fatal weakness: many policemen and soldiers have lost money in the schemes, which partly explains why looters in the south have often encountered little resistance. The only force on which Mr Berisha can rely is the secret police, the SHK, the backbone of the previous regime, which has adapted all too easily from Hoxha's communism to Mr Berisha's right-wing rule, beating up intellectuals who once dared to criticise Hoxha and who now criticise Berisha.

If Mr Berisha is brought down, there are honourable and liberal-minded people in the Forum for Democracy who might put Albania back on track. But the Forum was brought together only by the crisis, and if it came to power it would swiftly be revealed as a front for the Socialists, some of whom remain militant communists.

"Europe" has not only failed to mend the roads, but has failed to help Albania break a deep-rooted secret-police culture and replace it with the foundations of democracy. The likelihood is that southern Europe will pay the price as tens of thousands of desperate Albanians pour into Italy and Greece. Yesterday's airlift by the Italian navy of foreign nationals stranded in an Albanian port may prove just a foretaste of the exodus to come.

Some of the proceeds from the dress sale of Diana, Princess of Wales, in New York, will be distributed to American rather than British charities. The Princess has chosen to give half of any money raised, which should exceed the £4 million estimate, to an organisation called the Aids Crisis Trust, with which she has no official ties, but which has glamorous American connections.

Marguerite Littman, the American socialite based in London, said

to be one of the Princess's mother figures and founder of the trust, says in her deep southern drawl: "We have lots of friends of Aids Crisis Trust in America, like Mrs Henry Kissinger and Bill Blass the designer, so a lot of the money from the sale will go there."

Also prominent within the Aids Crisis Trust is Lily Mahtani, a wealthy Indian who has energetically cultivated her royal connections, despite a hiccup last year when she sued the Duchess of York



for repayment of an alleged £100,000 loan.

All of which leaves the National Aids Trust, one of only four organisations the Princess remained patron of when she reduced her public work last year. While full of praise for the Princess's efforts on behalf of Aids causes, an optimistic spokesman for the National Aids Trust says: "I am sure we will be advising on where the Aids money goes". Mrs Littman begs to differ. The Aids Crisis Trust alone will be distributing the money."

Extra-curricular activities should be encouraged at Westminster, but Lord Rennell may be overdoing it. Yesterday, I reported how at 61 he stormed French lines in a 55-18 victory for the Lords and Commons Rugby XV. Today I hear how on Sunday night Rennell turned out for the Lords chess

team, and the week before that played bridge for the Lords against the Commons. It takes a man of Rennell's constitution to find time for legislating.

Fab Pav

EXTRA PASTA is on the shopping list for the Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados as Luciano Pavarotti packs his trunks for a three-week stay. To justify his holiday, Fat Lucy will be singing, for one night only, as part of the Holders opera season on the island.

Naturally enough, guests will be warming up for the concert with a five-course, £1,300-a-head dinner at the Sandy Lane, haunt of Michael Winner and assorted blonde handbags. Pavarotti will have to be in top form to improve on his warm-up act, a Trinidadian steel band called the Desperados.

Squeezed

SHAME on the Mairie de Menton in southern France, where the annual Fête du Citron has just come to a close. In previous years, the festival celebrated the bountiful harvest of 100,000 orange and lemon trees, but today things are different. Still in need of the tourists brought in by the festival, and yet

without the fruit to justify it, town officials went shopping. "We add to our citrus from Spain this year," said a voice from the town hall. "We no longer have enough of our own fruit. Eat it very sad."

Sassy

GOVERNMENT attempts to prevent former SAS soldiers from writing books by threatening banishment from regimental dinners appear to be floundering. The pulp publishers Orion have just bought three novels by the impressive



P.H.S

Beau Geste Major

Too many Tories accept defeat, says Woodrow Wyatt

Fed up with our ghastly winter, my wife, my daughter and I spent last week in Marrakesh, Morocco. The sun shone and the temperature reached 86F in the shade, perfect for sunbathing by the magnificent pool of the Hotel Mamounia. It is owned by King Hassan II, who runs an astonishingly liberal regime under which all religions are tolerated but racism is not.

Unlike one of his predecessors, Sultan Mulai Abdul Aziz, the present King does not appear to be eccentric or autocratic. Abdul Aziz was keen on cricket, generally four a side. At the end of the match the Sultan put the names against the scores. His Majesty was always the top scorer; the player he liked best for the moment had the second-best score, the lowest went to whoever was out of favour. The Sultan's side always won.

The patron saint of Marrakesh is Sir Winston Churchill. His painting holidays, spent at the Mamounia Hotel after he lost the 1945 election, put Marrakesh — and by extension the rest of Morocco — into the top league for world tourism.

Although we were warned about beggars, they never troubled us. The crowds in the great marketplace seemed well nourished. Moroccan women have a high degree of pluckitude. Romantic Marrakesh is in the midst of P.C. Wren's *Beau Geste* country. There are spectacular views of the Atlas mountains. Our well organised and comfortable hotel was a great place for reflection. *Sky News* in the bedroom kept me posted about events in Britain, including the Wirral South by-election result. So has my forecast that John Major will win the general election been shown to be haywire?

Yesterday *The Sun* printed a MORI opinion poll of 795 Wirral voters, conducted immediately after last Thursday's by-election. Not surprisingly, they said they wouldn't change their votes at the general election. But that does not mean that many will not by May 1. Also there is a gap of 8.6 per cent between the 81.6 per cent who voted in April 1992 and the 73 per cent who voted in the by-election. The missing voters, plus those who eventually change their minds, would make it quite possible for the Conservatives to repeat much the same general election results as in 1992.

Yet the front page of *The Sun* carried the following message:

"The tide has turned... and the Tories will soon be stranded like a beached whale." How odd. Last Saturday's *Sun* staged one of its "You the Jury" telephone polls, by which it sets much store. It asked: "Which party will you vote for at the general election?" Tucked away in a corner at the bottom of a page, the answer was printed yesterday. Sixty per cent said they would vote Tory, which hardly suggests the landslide Labour victory that the paper predicts.

I suppose it is harmless enough. Yet meanwhile, children go to bed unhappy because they can't get into the local school because of the mess of "parental choice"; 16-year-olds of both sexes face humiliating unemployment; prison officers say that Broadmoor is running out of control, and intelligent citizens are reduced to digging themselves underground because they despise of democracy in road planning. There are enough problems of class, wealth, crime and education without flogging around inventing gender issues. If a building is on fire, you ring the fire brigade, not the Victorian Society. Grumpy Gertrude here can't help feeling that the very diversity amongst women that Demos "discovered" is the reason why, frankly, they needn't have bothered.

It was the "Butskell" consensus that kept the Tories in power from 1951 to 1964. Now the consensus favours Labour. To win, the Conservatives must stop their self-indulgent rows over how many angels can dance on the point of a pin in interpreting Cabinet policy towards Europe, and start addressing the enemy. They must calculate how many jobs will be lost when Labour fulfills its pledge to join the EU's social chapter, and must blazon the figure abroad.

They must estimate realistically the horrific effect of a certain run on the pound if Labour wins. They must relentlessly expose the damage to millions of small investors and pension funds that would be wrought by Labour's proposed windfall tax. They must attack, attack, attack, instead of responding — somewhat feebly to Labour's assaults on them.

Too many Conservatives accept defeat, and some even welcome it for the refreshment it would supposedly give the party in opposition. Others are shamelessly jockeying for leadership positions after an election defeat. Why should the public vote for a party which, apart from its leader, has no real heart for winning? Like Churchill honoured at Marrakesh, John Major fights best when all looks lost. If top Tories are not seen to back him wholeheartedly, they will betray millions of Tory loyalists.



YOUTH ON TRIAL

Straw's concerns are proper, his answers on the right track

Both for the harassed tenants of council estates and the residents of more spacious suburbs relief cannot come too quickly from the inconvenience, pain and distress caused by juvenile criminals. The proposals unveiled yesterday by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, attempt to speak to the concerns of all too many families whose lives have been disrupted by the persistent antisocial behaviour of teenage offenders. Michael Howard can hardly be accused of legislative indolence or a reticence in making it easier for courts to convict; but the Conservative record on juvenile crime has, until recently, been no source of pride. Mr Straw's proposals may have been motivated by a desire to occupy what was a poorly defended piece of traditional Tory terrain but he deserves credit nevertheless for devoting attention to the scale, causes and treatment of juvenile offending.

In 1994 two out of every five known offenders were under 21 and a quarter were under 18. Broadly, some seven million offences a year are committed by individuals who are under 18. They are dealt with separately from adults in juvenile courts and, even more than other parts of the criminal justice system, those courts have been failing society. In November of last year the Audit Commission pointed out that "less is done now than a decade ago to address offending by young people".

Labour has sought to exploit the accumulated problems of juvenile justice by making speedier sentences in youth courts one of their "five early pledges". The package unveiled yesterday, not least the reform of the age of criminal responsibility, is designed to underline Labour's efforts.

Labour wants not only to speed justice, but also tailor it further to the requirements of

juvenile criminals by borrowing elements from the Scottish Children's Panel system. Mr Straw wants professional magistrates to determine guilt and lay magistrates to decide on the sentence. He hopes by moving to a more "inquisitorial" system to confront young offenders and their parents more directly with the consequences of their actions. Mr Straw wants to prevent juvenile criminals from hiding behind their lawyers' gowans in youth courts whose processes inappropriately imitate their adult counterparts. It would be altogether welcome if young offenders had their guilt established quickly with their parents' responsibilities spelt out. Labour must however ensure that the gap between establishing guilt and facing sentence does not create new delays and potential for confusion.

Mr Straw proposes to ensure that he secures accelerated justice by denying legal aid to those who plead guilty unless they are likely to face a custodial sentence. Labour's proposal could cost around £5 million a year. Abolition of legal aid for all juveniles who plead guilty, whatever the likely sentence, would raise £4.3 million. The shortfall is likely to be larger and Mr Straw would, if in office, have to raid other parts of his budget. The sums are not, however, massive, and the beneficial effect of early justice for juveniles embarking on a criminal career would be worth the investment.

Ultimately, as Mr Straw is the first to admit, it is parents, not politicians who can do most to prevent youth crime. They can however be helped by a government committed to an activist posture. The rhetoric of both main parties is designed to offer that support. Although there are still question marks over Labour's policies, they signal a welcome seriousness of intent.

TUNG-TIED

Hong Kong will be a Chinese backwater if the press is curbed

Tung Chee-hwa, the designated Chief Executive of Hong Kong after July 1, is a Chinese patriot cut in the 19th-century mould who is quite frank about his distrust of democracy. Because he shares some of the instinctive authoritarianism of China's leadership while believing stoutly in Hong Kong's capitalist system, many influential Hong Kong businessmen argue that this will equip him well to deal with Beijing after July 1. The test will be whether in doing so, he is robust in defence of Hong Kong's open and pluralist system. His stated conviction that individual rights should be subordinated to "the good of the community" suggests a genuine lack of understanding that political freedoms underpin Hong Kong's rule of law. His actions since he was appointed last December have increased scepticism.

In January, he sided firmly with Chinese moves to curtail important political freedoms in Hong Kong after July 1, including rights to form associations and political parties and to demonstrate. When his words created an uproar in Washington, he turned on Hong Kong's democrats, accusing them of creating trouble by "bad-mouthing" Hong Kong abroad. Malcolm Rifkind, in reply, said that it was entirely legitimate for anyone to point out that China's plans would be bad for confidence as well as for human rights in Hong Kong. Now, in his first television interview since December, Mr Tung has told the press that after July 1, it must avoid "derogatory or personal remarks against other people". This is a barely coded version of China's position that attacks on the Beijing leadership will not be permitted.

On previous occasions, Mr Tung has said that he supports freedom of expression and a free press; but he seems to have a poor grasp of what this means. As the editor of *Tu Kung Pao*, the leading pro-Peking newspaper in Hong Kong, comments, "it is impossible for a newspaper to criticise a policy without

criticising the man who made it". If Mr Tung believes that curbs on press freedom are a small price to pay for keeping Beijing happy, that can only mean that he regards this freedom as negotiable. For Hong Kong, whose international competitiveness depends crucially on an open intellectual culture underpinned by the free flow of information, any such trade-off would be a material as well as a political disaster.

Services now account for 80 per cent of Hong Kong's GDP. It therefore relies critically on academic freedom in its universities and on the swift, accurate and uncensored flow of information of all kinds. In addition, the most immediate threat to Hong Kong, acknowledged by China as well as its own apprehensive citizens, is contamination by Chinese corruption. The respect for the rule of law, entrenched in Hong Kong's culture under British rule, is some defence; but after the handover, businessmen might well fear to take opponents with powerful Chinese connections to court. The best defence against that is a press free to investigate and to report.

Many of Mr Tung's friends and advisers tell him these things. Hong Kong has a young population, and they worry that his stress on authority and conformity will create a gulf between his post-July administration and Hong Kong's highly mobile pool of graduate talent. Hong Kong's popular and respected Chief Executive, Anson Chan, whose readiness to continue in office will be vital to post-handover confidence, has urged Hong Kong's press to continue "to write the editorials and stories that deserve to be written, responsibly, objectively but without fear or favour". Mr Tung may not understand why she is right; but he should follow her lead. He cares deeply about Hong Kong's stability; but integral to that stability are the freedoms he has so far been reluctant to defend.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, CHAIRMAN

How companies can hire themselves a diplomat

The invoice will doubtless arrive embossed with an elegant Foreign Office crest. To His Excellency's services on behalf of Acme Engineering Ltd: one hour's exclusive lobbying of the President, together with an exposition of the Company catalogue, £3,000. The bill, of course, might be a little less if Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador was only granted 20 minutes with Industry Minister. If the Third Secretary (Bicycles Division) happened to bump into the Tanzanian Government car fleet maintenance mechanic and dropped a hint that Britain did a nice line in sparking plugs, he might legitimately consider his remarks worth at least a fiver.

The new world of invoiced PR diplomacy may soon be upon us if radicals in the Cabinet Office have their way. Our Man in the pinstripe suit has better things to do now than pass the canapés. Selling for Britain is the modern motto, and the harder the sell, the quicker the ambitious diplomat will ascend the ladder. Now those hawks in the Treasury are asking why HMG should foot the bill. Acme grew to be a multinational conglomerate thanks to the endless cups of coffee ingested by British ambassadors in the Gulf while nodding sagely at the words of the tribal emirs. Let Acme pay.

There is a slight matter of credibility. Britain's reputation for peerless, patronising impartiality was built on the formula of flying the flag from the Rolls, supporting the Church in dusty tropics and supreme indifference to the gizmos being peddled in the local markets by scruffy British salesmen. A trade fair from time to time was welcome, especially if a royal visit was in prospect, and an ambassador has been known to pose for the cameras enjoying a piece of Stilton or a glass of whisky. But turning over the Embassy drawing room to British fashion designers, or summoning local industry chiefs to breakfast looked rather too partisan.

The old days of nonchalance have passed away. Diplomacy is more and more about trade figures, and the Foreign Office's proudest boast is that for every pound it spent in trade promotion in the Far East last year, it earned £78 in exports. Mandarins may still enjoy the dispatches on post-Deng China from Sir Len Appleyard in Beijing; but the Ambassador's usefulness is better attested by the £1 billion BP deal that he helped to clinch. The Labour Party, indeed, has gone one better. Why not do away with the fuddy-duddy diplomats, and send our captains of industry to represent Britain?

The Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit, looking at diplomatic charges, already calculates that briefings, business packs and market advice bring in £1 million a year: small beer. When there are chandeliers in the embassy ballroom to repair, but it all helps. The top man's lobbying skills must be worth a bit more. The Americans, after all, have been at it for years: raising money is how you become an ambassador in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
T FRANKS
16 Cambridge Road North, W4.
March 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9QN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Shortage of hospital beds and the quality of healthcare

From the Director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's belief that all that is wrong with Britain's healthcare is the shortage of hospital beds is touching ("Beds, not trolleys", February 27). And his hypothesis that the NHS would somehow be rescued from disaster by the tiny private sector like a knight in shining armour is pure fantasy.

Hospital beds are no longer used as a measure of activity. More and more patients are being treated as day cases because of new drug therapies and medical advances. This has allowed the NHS, according to government figures, to purchase 5.2 million in-patient treatments between April and September 1996, representing a 3.3 per cent increase over the same period in 1995 and an annual projected figure of 10.6 million. Quite an achievement compared with the 750,000 operations performed in the private sector each year.

Comparing the percentage of GDP spent on the public and private sectors in the UK and other countries is disingenuous. Other countries just do not have a comprehensive, publicly funded service, free at the point of delivery. Moreover, accounts of the unhappy state of public-sector healthcare in the US should be enough to prevent anyone in this country wanting to emulate that system.

Whatever the political colour of the next government, the best way forward is to provide development monies of 3 per cent above inflation for what is increasingly a cost-effective NHS.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP A. HUNT,
Director,
National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts,
Birmingham Research Park,
Vincent Drive, Birmingham 15.
February 28.

From the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg is both right and wrong. He is wrong in that health insurance is no solution to the funding shortfall in the hospitals; lurking

behind the figures he quotes are healthcare crises in the US and in some EU countries, and the inequalities of provision and access in the US are well known. But he is right in advocating support via a properly managed and regulated private finance initiative.

However, neither of his proposals will solve the problem. No matter how many more beds and operating theatres are found, there simply are not the doctors and nurses to staff them. And the plans for a primary care-led service by transferring resources, human and material, away from hospitals will only make matters worse.

Yours,
DAVID LONDON,
Registrar,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
February 27.

From Mr Brian T. Collins

Sir, The over-long waiting lists for operations highlighted by Lord Rees-Mogg have been greatly aggravated by the occupancy for long periods of so many expensive hospital beds by the elderly – people who would be far better occupying much less expensive and usually much more pleasant beds provided by private-sector nursing homes.

Under the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, local authorities are financially responsible for paying for such beds private nursing homes while NHS hospitals are not permitted to do so. Many, perhaps most, local authorities have insufficient funds to pay for all those who are in the community and should be in nursing homes, let alone those who are long-term in NHS hospitals.

It would make sound financial and medical sense for NHS funds to be diverted to local authorities specifically for paying for such NHS patients to be transferred to private nursing homes or for individual hospital trusts to be permitted to buy bed space directly themselves.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN COLLINS (Chairman),
Grosvenor Care plc,
22 Gloucester Road, Ealing, W5.
February 27.

From the Managing Director, UK Operations, BUPA

Sir, It was so refreshing to read William Rees-Mogg's account of how both main political parties fail to recognise the potential of the private sector to contribute to the nation's healthcare.

A useful first step in this direction for the Labour Party would be to assure half a million elderly subscribers to private medical insurance that it will not take away their tax relief.

Yours sincerely,
VAL GOODING,
Managing Director, UK,
BUPA,
15-19 Bloomsbury Way, WC1.
February 27.

From Mr Richard Proctor and Dr Bob Usherwood

Sir, Recently we had the opportunity to investigate the impact of the almost total closure of the public library service on the local community, when industrial action closed Sheffield libraries and information services for eight weeks.

Our research showed that most people were unable to find a replacement for the service (more than eight out of ten could not afford to buy the books they needed). Respondents emphasised the service's educational value (significantly highest in communities where the fewest had undergone higher education), and its social role (over 50 per cent of users visited their local library weekly or more often).

All political parties are placing great emphasis on education and literacy, but none seems to have made the link between these and an adequately financed public library service, or recognised the important part that public librarians play in promoting the values of a democratic and civilised society. They help to democratise knowledge.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PROCTOR,
BOB USHERWOOD,
Department of Information Studies,
University of Sheffield,
Western Bank, S10 2TN.
February 24.

Human cost of 'arms to Iraq' affair

From Mr R. W. Dunk

Sir, In July 1994 I and my company, Atlantic Commercial UK Ltd, won our appeal against our convictions in 1985 for alleged illegal export of arms to Iraq, because of information dredged up from FCO files by Sir Richard Scott when preparing his report on the Matrix-Churchill affair.

Sir Richard found that two officials in the FCO had contrived at the behest of officers of HM Customs to prevent our two defence witnesses, the military attachés of Jordan and Iraq, from coming to court by applying diplomatic pressure on their ambassadors. In their absence we had no option but to change our plea to guilty and we were heavily fined and the arms – which were not shipped – were confiscated.

The actions of the FCO officials were described in the Scott report as "disgraceful" and "thoroughly reprehensible", and the actions of the customs officials as "deserving of greater censure". In judgment on our appeal the Lord Chief Justice, at that time Lord Taylor, said that their actions constituted an abuse of the justice process.

The result of the conviction, apart from fines, costs and confiscation were the virtual ruin of my company and the enforced dismissal of its staff.

Animal traps

From Mr Robert Morgan

Sir, Peter Davies, the Director General of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (letter, February 27; see also letter, February 25), suggests that implementation of the Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards might lower the European Union's high animal-welfare standards.

An independent scientific report (*Study into Trapping in Five European Union Countries* by Dominique Crasson) demonstrates that EU standards fall far below those in Canada and the United States.

In particular, none of the five countries studied (including the UK) has any form of scientific national trap standards or trap-testing procedures

Combating poverty

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit

Sir, Your leading article, "Cost of benefit analysis" (February 24), asserts that "poverty pressure groups ... are more inclined than ever to support welfare-to-work measures".

This organisation, for one, has long advocated measures to lift people off benefit dependency as the most effective means of tackling growing poverty.

Unemployment has forced many into welfare dependency, wasting their skills and sapping their sense of self-worth. Low pay is the single most important cause of poverty, with the taxpayer required to subsidise cowboy employers through benefit top-ups –

now costing £3 billion a year – to their staff.

Social security can alleviate the worst symptoms of poverty, but if we are to tackle the disease itself we need to challenge the underlying causes, of which low pay and unemployment are the most important.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS POND,
Director,
Low Pay Unit,
27-29 Amwell Street, EC1.
February 28.

Business letters, page 51

'Borrowed time' at public libraries

From the Chief Executive of The Library Association

Sir, Melvyn Bragg ("Don't keep our libraries on borrowed time", Arts, February 24) is surely right to highlight the contrast between the fine words in the recent Heritage Department policy review, *Reading the Future*, and the state of the public libraries in many parts of the country. It is certainly reassuring that the Government has placed on record its assertion that they will have a vital role in the information society.

However, to achieve that by the turn of the century, there needs to be significant public investment in information technology, a relaxation of the National Lottery rules on the eligibility of public libraries and, above all, a resolution of the conflict between central and local government on expenditure for locally delivered public services.

Anyone concerned about reductions in services at their local public library is likely to be told by the council that it does not wish to reduce opening hours, close branches or cut the money spent on books, but that the grant from the Government leaves it no option. If they approach the Government, they are likely to be told that each council, in the Government's view, gets a grant sufficient to provide its full range of services to a good standard.

It seems that a thorough review of local government finances is required for a solution to be found. Alternatively, councils should be left to spend on services to the level required by the local electorate.

Yours faithfully,
ROSS SHIMMON,
Chief Executive,
The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.

February 25.

From Mr Richard Proctor and Dr Bob Usherwood

Sir, Recently we had the opportunity to investigate the impact of the almost total closure of the public library service on the local community, when industrial action closed Sheffield libraries and information services for eight weeks.

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All political parties are placing great emphasis on education and literacy, but none seems to have made the link between these and an adequately financed public library service, or recognised the important part that public librarians play in promoting the values of a democratic and civilised society. They help to democratise knowledge.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PROCTOR,
BOB USHERWOOD,
Department of Information Studies,
University of Sheffield,
Western Bank, S10 2TN.
February 24.

Register of electors

From Mr Barrie Lane

Sir, Cameron has recently joined the Commonwealth. Citizens of that country, of age and resident in the UK on October 10, 1996, will therefore be entitled to be entered in the recently published (February 16) Register of Electors. Once registered they will be able to vote in the next UK general election whenever that is called, as is the right of citizens of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Ireland.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Queen gave a Reception this evening at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Awards for Export, Techno-

logical and Environmental Achievement in 1996.

The Duke of York. The Princess Royal, The Duke of Gloucester and The Duke of Kent were present.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Simon Carter, 15 Quadrant Arcade, 80-82 Regent Street, W1, 11.30; as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend a Corporate Fellows luncheon at Buckingham Palace at 12.45; and, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Riva Karimini, 17 Devonshire News, W4, at 3.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Parkinson's Disease Society, will visit the headquarters at 22 Upper Woburn Place, WC1, at 11.00; and will attend a reception at Drapers' Hall in aid of Margrave Care, at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a thanksgiving service at St Martin in the Fields at 2.35 to mark the centenary of The King's Fund.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
The Bishop of Rochester was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Dr Habib Zuberi presided.

Lord-Lieutenant

Mr George Robert Marwick has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney in succession to the late Brigadier Malcolm Gray Denison.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for March was won with bond number 50H 333951. The winner lives in Surrey, and has a bond holding of £10,100.

School news

The Red Maids' School, Bristol
The Governors of The Red Maids' School are pleased to announce the following awards for September 1997:

Master Scholarship Laura Erdmanns, Fairfield Primary School.

Scholarships Sophie Bremner, The Red Maids' Junior School.

Scholarship Sarah Hunter, The Red Maids' Junior School.

Music Scholarship (bursary) Emma Thackeray, Henleaze Junior School.

Whitton Bursaries (closed awards) Natalie Hunter, Beth King, Gabrielle Palmer, Alison Pentlow.

The Red Maids' School has established £10,000 to promote an education for girls.

Lecture

Edith Kahn Memorial Lecture
Professor Brian Edwards delivered the annual CSV Edith Kahn Memorial lecture last night at the House of Commons by courtesy of Mr Andrew Rowe, MP.

Appointment

Sir Alton Copisarow has been appointed trustee of the Atheneum in succession to the Right Rev Lord Coggan.

Today's birthdays

SIR DAVID BARNES, chief executive, Zeneca Group, b1: Professor Sir Alan Battersby, Professor of Organic Chemistry, 72; Sir Arthur Bryan, former Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 74; Mr Nicholas Coleridge, journalist, 40; Mr Kenny Dalglish, football manager, 46; Mr Graham Dowling, cricketer, 40; Professor H.J. Eysenck, psychologist, 81; Mr Harvey Goldsmith, impresario, 51; Mr Jeff Grayson, rugby league player, 48; Mr Bernard Haukin, KBE, conductor, 8; Mr John Hunt, former Headmaster, Roedean.

SCHOOL, 65: Lord Johnston of Rockport, 82; Mr Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist, 51; Mr Stuart Mawson, otoriologist, 79; Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 74; Mr Alan Sililton, writer, 69; Mr Peter Skellern, composer and singer, 50; Sir Keith Stuar, chairman, Associated British Ports, Hunt.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL J. G. FORTING, Dean of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, celebrated his 49th birthday on Sunday and not his 71st birthday as announced.

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
Rear-Admiral D.A.J. Blackburn to be promoted to Vice-Admiral and to be Chief of Staff to the Commander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Moore in September 1997.

Rear-Admiral I.A. Forbes to be Commander United Kingdom Task Group/Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Strike Force in succession to Rear-Admiral A.W.J. West in October 1997.

DEATHS

JOHN STUART, 72, of Epsom, Surrey, died on February 27th to Kenneth (née Peil) and Ashley (daughter Joanna) Victrous.

CAPALBIO - On February 27th, to Philip (née Haynes) and John, a son, Simon, a brother, a trustee for Emma.

CHURCH - On February 26th to Tom and Diana (née Hart) and Stephen, a son, a son, Kieran James Thruson, a brother, for Gordan.

CLARK - On 21st February 1997, to Sarah (née Hurn) Hart and Jeremy Clark, a daughter, Amelia Raffaella.

COOMBS - On Tuesday 25th February 1997, to Michael and Adele, a daughter, Eleanor Rose.

COTTIN - On 26th February, to Jacques and Caroline (née Blaquier), a son, Georges François, a son, Thomas Hervé.

DARRELL - On 1st March 1997, in Paris, South Africa, to Susan (née Cooke) and Guy, a son, Robert, a brother to Richard.

DE GROOT - On 27th February, to Deborah and Mark, a daughter, Sophie.

FALCONER - On 21st February 1997, to Deborah (née Close) and Patrick, a son, John Douglas Hamill, a daughter, Sophie. On February 26th to Sarah (née Hurn) Tom, a son, Flynn Francis.

HODGKIN - On February 25th to Lucy (née Campbell) and Michael, a daughter, Natasha, a sister, Sophie.

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COOMBS - On Tuesday 25th February 1997, to Michael and Adele, a daughter, Eleanor Rose.

COTTIN - On 26th February, to Jacques and Caroline (née Blaquier), a son, Georges François, a son, Thomas Hervé.

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DE GROOT - On 27th February

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VAT payable on retail price of free meal

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Westmorland Motorway Services Ltd
Before Mr Justice Lightman
Judgment February 21

A service station which supplied a free meal and either cigarettes or cash in lieu to a coach driver who brought a coachload of at least 20 passengers for a minimum of 30 minutes, was assessable to value-added tax on the retail price of the cigarettes or meals supplied, and not on the cost price.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, allowing the appeal of the Commissioners for Customs and Excise from a decision of a VAT Tribunal of July 26, 1994, that VAT should be assessed only on the cost to the service station of providing those benefits to the driver or on the retail price which the driver would have had to pay if he bought the meal and cigarettes.

Westmorland Motorway Services Ltd operated three motorway service stations in Cumbria, where they offered a free packet of cigarettes or cash in lieu and after March 1, 1992 additionally a free meal to any coach driver, upon identification, who brought a coach with 20 or more passengers and stayed for at least 30 minutes. Such arrangements between coach drivers and motorway service stations were common.

It was common ground that Westmorland was making a tax-free supply of goods to the coach drivers in the form of cigarettes and cash. The commissioners conceded that where cash was provided in lieu of cigarettes, VAT was assessable on no greater sum than that provided.

Article 11(a) of the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the

laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes: common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assessment (CJ 1977 L145 p1) provided: "(1) The taxable amount shall be (a) in respect of supplies of goods and services... everything which constitutes the consideration which has been or is to be obtained by the supplier from the purchaser, the customer or a third party for supplies including subsidies directly linked to the price of such supplies..."

The question at issue was the amount of output tax for which Westmorland should account in respect of the relevant supplies, and accordingly it was necessary to focus on the consideration obtained by Westmorland and its value.

The consideration obtained for the supply to the driver of the free meal and cigarettes was the driver's act of bringing a coach with 20 or more passengers to the service station for at least 30 minutes.

The problem lay in valuing that consideration. The answer was found in two decisions of the European Court of Justice: *Naturally Yours Cosmetics Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* (Case C-20/87) (1988) ECR 6365 and *Empire Stores v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* (Case C-33/93) (1994) ECR I-2329, reaffirmed in *Argos Distributors Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* (Case C-

288/94) (The Times November 18, 1996, [1996] STC 1359).

The principles governing the application of the Sixth Directive to be derived from those authorities were clear.

1. The consideration had to be capable of being expressed in money.

2. If the consideration were capable of such expression, the question to be considered was whether there was some agreement, express or to be inferred, between the parties placing a monetary value on the consideration. If so, the consideration was that agreed monetary value.

3. If there was no such agreement, the value would be the value which the taxpayer attributed to the goods or services which he was seeking to obtain and corresponded to the amount which he was prepared to spend for that purpose.

If the taxpayer supplied goods the value would be the cost of obtaining those goods, and if he had purchased them the price which the taxpayer had paid for them. If the taxpayer supplied services the value would be the cost, or extra cost, to the taxpayer of providing those services.

The critical question was whether as between Westmorland and the coach driver there was an agreement, express or to be inferred, placing a monetary value on the cigarettes and meal.

driver and the service station that, in return for the driver providing a coachload of at least 20 passengers and waiting that length of time, the service station would provide the driver with a free meal and either a packet of cigarettes or money instead.

The question for the court was whether VAT was payable by the service station on the cost to the service station of providing those benefits to the driver or on the retail price which the driver would have had to pay if he bought the meal and cigarettes.

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Article 11(a) of the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the

Limit to retirement relief on business assets

Plumb and Others v Spencer (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Lightman
Judgment February 5

Retirement relief from capital gains tax on the disposal of business assets of a family company was only available if the assets disposed of had been in use for the purposes of business carried on by the person making the disposal.

Section 69(2)(b) of the Finance Act 1985 was not to be construed so as to permit the relief on the disposal of land owned by an individual but which had been used for the purposes of a business carried on by him but by his family company.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by the personal representatives of Mr S. C. Harcourt deceased, from the determination of a special commission upholding the refusal by the

Inspector of Taxes of a claim for retirement relief in respect of the gain arising on the disposal in 1988 of 163 acres of land at Besthorpe, Nottingham.

Section 69 of the 1985 Act, now section 163 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, provided for relief for disposals of business assets by individuals having attained the age of 60, now 55, on their retirement from a family business.

Section 69 provided: "(2) ... a disposal of business assets is (a) a disposal of the whole or part of a business, or (b) a disposal of one or more assets which at the time of a business ceased to be carried on were in use for the purposes of that business..."

Mr Patrick Soares for the personal representatives: Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that Mr Harcourt had granted a lease of the land that was owned by him to a company which at all

material times was a trading company and his family company and one of which he was a full-time working director.

The letting had been for use for

purposes of the company's trade and had paid rent. Within one year of the company ceasing to carry on its trade Mr Harcourt had disposed of the land.

The question to be considered was whether section 69(2)(b) was applicable in respect of the disposal. The asset disposed had to be a business asset. That was the critical issue.

On the true construction of the provision, was use for the purposes of the business carried on by the company sufficient, or was it necessary that it was used for the purposes of a business of Mr Harcourt himself?

The commissioner's decision had proceeded on the basis that the starting point was reading on to its own the wording of section 69(2)(b) and that when so read, on face,

couples to seek treatment under licence in the United Kingdom rather than another member state, it did indeed represent a restriction on the freedom to provide services under article 59.

The mother submitted that the requirement of a licence confirmed a restriction on the freedom to provide services within the community, thereby infringing article 59 of the EC Treaty and which were objectively necessary to protect the recipient of the services.

Furthermore, each member state had a discretion, within community law limits, to define public policy in accordance with its own scale of values.

However, the recent Court of Appeal decision in *R v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, Ex parte Blood* (The Times February 7, 1997) considered that the question of restriction should be answered by reference to a practical or functional criterion namely whether it substantially impeded the provision of such services.

As much as section 28(3) would substantially incline most

clearly there was no direct restriction in that absence of a licence merely withheld the legal consequence of conferred paternity under section 28(3).

The mother submitted that the requirement of a licence confirmed a restriction on the freedom to provide services within the community, thereby infringing article 59 of the EC Treaty and which were objectively necessary to protect the recipient of the services.

Given the scope for awards to complainants who had suffered by sex or race discrimination to reflect injury to feelings, there was no reason in principle why the words of the section could not extend to such an award.

There were no grounds for interfering with the quantum awarded in the present case which was well within the proper range for such awards on the facts.

By assessing the applicant's loss of the chance of promotion the tribunal had adopted the correct approach to compensation. The position was akin to solicitors' negligence cases and quite different to that in *Hanson v East Berkshire Area Health Authority* [1987] AL 750. The sole cause of the position in which the applicant found himself was the unlawful action of the employer.

If the wording of section 149(2) of

the 1992 Act had followed precisely

the wording of what the current section 12(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, subject to the different claims being made, it would have been right to follow the line of authority, beginning at common law with *Addis v Addis* and imported into the statutory law of

Consolidation Act 1992.

The industrial tribunal found

the complaint well founded and

pursuant to section 149 of the Act awarded the applicant £1,000 for

injury to feelings and further

declared that he was entitled to

compensation for pecuniary loss

representing 25 per cent of any

difference in pay between the

management post and his para-

medic post.

It was firmly established at

common law that damages for

injury to feelings were not recoverable in an action for wrongful

dismissal: see *Addis v Gramophone Co Ltd* [1909] AC 488, 491.

In *Norton Tool Co Ltd v Tewson*

the action which infringed his right.

Ms Andrea Pitt for the employ-

ers; Ms Ijeoma Omenba for the

applicant.

JUDGE PETER CLARK said that in July 1995 the applicant, a qualified paramedic, complained that he had not been short-listed

for a management post with his employers because of his trade union activities. That was a complaint of action short of dismissal under section 146(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations

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Hope springs eternal for stragglers in the pack



OPPORTUNITIES to win prizes in Interactive Team Football continue even for those who have only recently joined the game. The winner this week is a recent entrant, with no chance of winning the overall £50,000 prize — he is the 205,890th-placed selector — but with 40 points, Mr J. Bartlett, of Ipswich, wins £250 with his team, McClean's XI.

Manager of the month for February is Mr J. Dwyer, of Whyteleafe, Surrey, who scored 137 points with Dwyer's Tipsters. Mr Dwyer is equal 150th in the overall competition, and is still in contention for the main prize. His selected XI has a judicious mixture of free-scoring Scottish and English-based players, including Pressley, of Dundee United, and the Wimbleton pairing of Gayle and Earle.

The overall leader remains Mr G. Foster, who maintains his good lead over John Hunt. Mr Foster's team, Sophie And Sam, has a 13-point advantage of Mr Hunt's Taunton D team, which is on the point of being overtaken by one of Mr J. Brown's "Nobby" teams. Yet there is still time for others to make up the ground — the early-season leader, Mr J. Staszkiewicz, is now equal 166th.

You can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes by using the ITF transfer system, which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.



Le Tissier's superbly struck volley against Newcastle United will have made some ITF selectors very happy



You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866

96 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £10,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 489 122.

CORRECTION: The data processed for the match between Raith Rovers and Motherwell on February 18 was incorrect. Scott Y. Thomson, player No 12301, should have had nine points deducted, while Scott Thomson, player No 42304, should not have had any points added. The overall totals are correct in the player listings today.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN	OUT	LOANED PLAYERS
40207 50206 51605	Phil O'Donnell Nicolle Andra Steve Guppy	Celtic Aberdeen Leicester City
32805 41103	Kevin Scott John Elford	Tottenham Hotspur Everton
		£2.50m £3.00m £2.00m £0.50m £1.50m

5 Manute (West Ham to Reading, one week); V. Bartram (Arsenal to Wolverhampton, three weeks); A. Miller (Middlesbrough to West Bromwich, three weeks); P. Evans (Leeds to Bradford, one month)

Loan periods subject to fluctuation

Cells cost 50p per minute.

Call the ITF checkline on

0891 866 643

Outside UK: 04 990 103 843

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.



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THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	640	108	Skystorm	(A Burton)	545	180	Team	(Player's name)	524
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	627	109	Concrete Bananas	(S Mingle)	544	180	Lynx's Lions	(L Homs)	524
3	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	625	110	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	544	180	Buggle Navvies	(D Banks)	524
4	Nobby	(J Brown)	622	111	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohi)	543	180	Foxy	(M Fox)	524
5	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	619	112	Star Chamber	(M Macmillan)	543	180	Football Jumbies	(K Howson)	524
6	AB 4	(A Boyland)	616	113	Old Camerons	(J Brown)	543	180	Brabz	(J Mellings)	524
7	Sebast Celtic	(S McGivern)	611	114	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	543	180	C	(D Edzobokestainer)	524
8	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	609	115	DJS 2	(D Senton)	543	180	The Great Dane	(K Booth)	523
9	Daggers	(V Cox)	608	116	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	542	180	Lewis Boys A	(D Lewis)	522
10	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	607	117	Mars FC	(M Barber)	542	180	Chom Chix 69	(C Sorensen)	522
11	Edms Uni	(D Edmiston)	601	118	Midfield Magic	(J Pregan)	542	180	Caftic Fowlers	(G Thomas)	522
12	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	601	119	Almeria	(F Fyle)	542	180	Subverts Unit 5	(M Larcombe)	522
13	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	601	120	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	541	180	Pearsons Team 1	(S Parham)	522
14	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	601	121	End 2	(J Hagger)	541	180	Lloyd's Barge	(D Goodwin)	522
15	Brain's Team	(S Howes)	600	122	Come On You Radics	(no name)	541	180	LFC Champs 98-97	(J W Goody)	522
16	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	600	123	Roberts Team 1	(M Roberts)	541	180	Porcelain Dogs	(B Fazekas)	521
17	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	598	124	Goalkeepers	(O Curzon)	541	180	The Loggers	(C Gibson)	521
18	Pin Upz Two	(P Turner)	597	125	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	540	180	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)	521
19	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	597	126	Yarboys	(G Davidson)	539	180	Bunnet Boys	(A Sharpe)	521
20	Jabberwocky	(P A Arnes)	596	127	Parrotos Eagles	(S Abbott)	538	180	March Puss	(M McGovern)	521
21	Bob's Boys 2	(P Calder)	596	128	Concrete Chicks	(I A Kitchen)	537	180	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	520
22	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	596	129	Crook Boys	(R Crook)	537	180	Le Boeufwars	(J Robuck)	520
23	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	596	130	The Dummies 1	(J Shone)	536	180	Rams 2 Slaugther	(J Staszkiewicz)	520
24	Nonchalant AFC 3	(P J Ward)	596	131	Rock United 1	(J Pull)	536	203	Sucharts	(R Keenan)	520
25	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	591	132	AJK	(K Hughes)	536	203	DRS Select XI 2	(D Swinburne)	520
26	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	591	133	Rock Bottom	(E O'Gorman)	535	208	EJK's Unleashed	(E J Kitchen)	519
27	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	590	134	Inter Cutters	(R Johnson)	535	208	Triple Top Ten	(P Bailey)	519
28	Icarus	(B Waller)	589	135	Ebbesby 1st XI	(S Baldwin)	525	208	Das Boot	(D Sutton)	519
29	Bladerunners	(P Waller)	588	136	C U C K	(G Weiss)	525	208	Shack Attack	(R Shackleton)	519
30	You're Not Very Well	(P Laskowski)	588	137	Totted Five	(E Koby)	525	208	Graham's Bangers	(G Watson)	519
31	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	582	138	Xpat Missiles	(M Jacobson)	525	208	Veti	(K Howson)	519
32	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	582	139	S G Ill Tattler A	(S Gill)	525	208	A5	(T Farhali)	518
33	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	581	140	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	525	215	Rud's Sexy Eleven	(T Eden)	518
34	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	581	141	Alancis FC	(A Stillano)	523	215	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	518
35	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	581	142	Murphy's Miles	(D Anderson)	523	215	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	518
36	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	581	143	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	523	215	Twelve Just Men	(W Evans)	518
37	Perth Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	580	144	Mithra	(R Lockyer)	523	215	Bing Ho!	(G Watson)	518
38	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	579	145	The Instructions	(K Curton)	521	215	Leslie's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	518
39	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	577	146	No Mifield	(J Portwood)	521	215	Neille's Heroes	(I Fox)	518
40	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	577	147	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	520	222	Raj Is Back To KII 7	(R Gohi)	517
41	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	577	148	Dimitro Moscow	(D Wilson)	520	222	Raj Is Back To KII 8	(R Gohi)	517
42	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	577	149	Infinity Gwanga	(M Robson)	520	222	The Danstons	(C C Veevers)	517
43	Storm	(P Mill)	576	150	4-2	(K Brown)	520	225	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swires)	517
44	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	575	151	Dove's First XI	(D Quibell)	520	225	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	516
45	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	575	152	Dwyer's Tipsters	(J Dwyer)	520	225	Solid Saints	(P Ridout)	516
46	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	574	153	Octo-ITF Champi	(M Sackson)	520	225	Charlie's Angels	(C J Yates)	516
47	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	573	154	Daniels Sashness	(V Cox)	520	225	Aaa	(T Miles)	516
48	Nobby J	(J Brown)	573	155	Patel One	(P Patel)	520	225	Kingsbury Tr 1	(D F King)	516
49	Thorn Fodder FC										

Meeting to tackle fears of TV violence

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0
10202	V Banham	Arsenal	0.75	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	+5
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	+5
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+5
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0
10502	S Kerr	Chelsea	3.00	+10
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0
10603	F Grodias	Chelsea	3.00	0
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-10
10702	J Flan	Coventry City	0.50	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-5
10801	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0
11001	J Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-3
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	-4
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-4
11401	D Lejkovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	-1
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-1
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	-5
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	+4
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	-1
12102	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	+5
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	-4
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0
12601	D Bessant	Southampton	1.00	0
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+10
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-1
12803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0
12801	J Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0
12802	E Baardeen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	-8
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0



Minto's own goal against Derby County, after scoring at the other end, meant that he ended up in debit for the week.

Code	Name	Team	Price
30304	C Tiller	Aston Villa	1.00
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50
30701	L Delish	Coventry City	2.00
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50

Code	Name	Team	Price	W	L	Draw
19	40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+3
24	40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+1	+4
33	40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+16
0	40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
-3	40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
+2	40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	+17
31	40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+2	+25
33	40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+1	+26
17	40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	+1	+23
+2	40505	P di Canto	Celtic	3.00	+8	+51
-3	40506	D Hannah	Celtic	1.50	+2	+6
-1	40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	+8
26	40602	D Whee	Chelsea	3.00	+2	+28
-6	40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0	+25
-9	40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+17
+2	40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
10	40608	R di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+2	+46
-5	40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
-7	40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+31

42607	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50	0+22
42608	P Tisdale	Southampton	0.50	0 0
42609	M Robinson	Southampton	0.25	0 +6
42611	E Berkovic	Southampton	1.00	+3+23
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	+1+31
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0+16
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	0+10
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	+1+34
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9
42801	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	+2+12
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0+23
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+2+33
42804	J Dazzell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 +2
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+2+34
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0 +3
42809	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0+31
42902	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	+2+28
42903	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	-1+33
42904	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0+17
42905	J Moncur	West Ham United	1.50	+1+16
42907	S Lazaridis	West Ham United	0.25	0+11
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	+3+56
43002	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	0+36
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	+1+56
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	0+31
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	+3+42
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	0 0
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	+3 +6

50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	+1+11
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0 +6
50103	W Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	0+33
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	+2+57
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	+3+33
50205	C Kwartchua	Arsenal	0.50	0 0
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+1+63
50302	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	5.00	+1+32
50303	T Johnson	Aston Villa	4.00	0+14
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	0 +8
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+3+34
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0+36
50405	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +3
50406	N Gudmundsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 0
50407	P Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1 +1
50501	P van Hooijdonk	Celtic	7.00	0+43
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	+3+71
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	+2+36
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+1+34
50605	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0 0
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	+1+33
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	5.00	+3+30
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	+2+29
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	5.00	0 +4
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	+5+30
50801	D Sturridge	Derby County	3.00	+4+36
50802	M Gabbiadini	Derby County	2.00	0 +7
50803	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	+8+26
50804	R Willems	Derby County	1.00	0+17
50903	K Olafsson	Dundee United	3.00	+2 +6
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	0+12
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	+1+27
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1+34
51801	N Bannatyne	Everton	4.00	+1+37
51102	G Stuart	Everton	3.00	+1+32
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0 +3
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50	+1 +8
51201	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	+1+46
51202	C Cameron	Hearts	3.50	+1+45
51203	D Beckford	Hearts	0.50	0 +4
51301	K Wright	Hibernian	3.00	+4+20
51302	D Jackson	Hibernian	3.00	+2+45
61401	P Wright	Kilmarnock	3.00	0+43
61501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.00	0 +1
51502	I Rush	Leeds United	3.50	+1+28
51504	B Deane	Leeds United	2.00	+1+29
51601	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	+1+41
51602	E Heskey	Leicester City	2.00	0+32
51603	M Parker	Leicester City	0.50	0 +5

51603	M Hobson	Leicester City	0.75	+3 +5
51604	I Marshall	Leicester City	0.75	+0 +6
51701	R Fowler	Liverpool	9.00	+1 +55
51702	S Collymore	Liverpool	8.00	+0 +45
51801	E Cantona	Manchester United	8.50	+1 +37
51802	P Scholes	Manchester United	5.00	+0 +17
51803	A Cole	Manchester United	4.50	+3 +13
51804	O G Solskjær	Manchester United	3.00	+0 +42
51905	F Ravanelli	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1 +52
51908	M Beck	Middlesbrough	2.50	+1 +19
52001	T Coyne	Motherwell	2.00	+4 +42
52002	O Coyle	Motherwell	2.00	+6 +27
52002	D Amott	Motherwell	1.50	0 +17
52041	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.0	+0 +70
52101	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.50	+1 +50
52102	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	5.50	+0 +8
52103	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+0 +29
52201	D Saunders	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+3 +36
52202	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+0 +11
52203	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0 0
52204	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+0 +33
52205	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0 +7
52206	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0 0
52207	A Stienz	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0 +1
52301	P Duffield	Rotherham United	2.00	+0 +23
52401	G Durie	Rangers	6.00	+1 +9
52402	E Andersen	Rangers	5.00	+0 +35
52403	A McCoist	Rangers	5.50	+0 +36
52404	P van Vossen	Rangers	6.00	0 0
52405	S Rozental	Rangers	4.00	0 +3
52501	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1 +20
52502	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2 +48
52504	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +29
52505	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0
52506	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+0 +17
52601	M Ie Tissier	Southampton	7.00	+4 +38
52605	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.00	+2 +39
52701	P Stewart	Sunderland	1.00	0 +6
52702	C Russell	Sunderland	1.00	+0 +18
52703	D Kelly	Sunderland	1.00	+0 +17
52704	L Howey	Sunderland	0.50	0 +2
52705	M Bridges	Sunderland	0.50	+0 +12
52708	N Quinn	Sunderland	3.00	0 +7
52801	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	+4 +25
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	7.00	+0 +19
52803	R Allen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0 +5
52804	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+2 +16
52023	J Hartson	West Ham United	3.50	+3 +14
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	2.00	+1 +14
52104	P Kitson	West Ham United	1.50	+4 +6
53001	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	+3 +15
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	3.00	+1 +42
53003	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	+1 +5
53004	J Euse	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0
53005	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1 +7

53006 M Harford Wimbledon 0.50 +1 +1

33006 S Fitzgerald Wimbledon 0.25 0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	Wk	Av
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+32	
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+17	
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	+1	+7	
40104	I Kirikov	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+28	
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+21	
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+2	+26	
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+53	
40203	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+24	
40204	G Helder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
40208	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+2	+32	
40209	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0	+5	
40210	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+2	+4	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+2	+25	
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+42	
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+30	
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
40306	S Curcic	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+21	
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+2	+35	
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+2	+27	
40403	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+18	
40404	W McKinstry	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0	
42201	I Worn					
42202	S Stone					
42203	S Gemmill					
42204	C Bart-William					
42205	D Phillips					
42301	T Rougier					
42302	D Lennon					
41304	A Millen					
42304	S Thomson					
42401	P Gascoigne					
42402	B Laudrup					
42403	S McCall					
42404	T Steven					
42405	J Albertz					
42501	R Blinker					
42502	M Pembridge					
42504	G Hyde					
42506	M Williams					
42507	R Jones					
42508	S Oakes					
42509	W Collins					
42510	O Trustfull					
42511	B Carbone					
42601	J Magilton					
42604	B Venison					
42606	D Hughes					

NEWS

Tap water at risk from parasite

■ Tap water is increasingly threatened with contamination by a parasite which causes sickness as water companies try to maintain supplies after two years of drought, experts said.

Many companies are dropping pressure to reduce leaks and this increases the risk of *cryptosporidium* penetrating the water network from the soil. The news comes as 300,000 people in Hertfordshire and north London were told to boil tap water after an outbreak of the infection. **Pages 1, 2**

Bishop to marry divorcée

■ The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Mark Santer, 60, announced that he is to marry a divorcée who was a friend of his first wife, Henriette, who died three years ago from cancer. Sabine Bird, 58, is a probation worker. The ceremony will be at a register office in late spring. **Page 1**

Upbeat Clarke

Kenneth Clarke tried to dispel deepening Conservative Party gloom with the claim that Britain was "fighting fit" and facing the best economic prospects for a generation. **Pages 1, 8, 16, 27**

Legal aid curbed

A crackdown on the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme was announced by the Government aimed at stopping lawyers from recommending legal aid in far-fetched cases. **Page 2**

Elvis soap case

Sid Shaw, a former Petticoat Lane barrow boy, took on America's Presley industry in the High Court over the right to sell Elvis embossed soap and perfume in Britain. **Page 3**

Monaghan bomb

A bomb was discovered outside Sinn Féin offices in Monaghan in the Irish Republic. Security sources blamed the Ulster Volunteer Force. **Page 4**

Priest wins support

Parishioners rallied to the black woman Anglican priest facing dismissal with some arguing that they would prefer to do without their bishop. **Page 5**

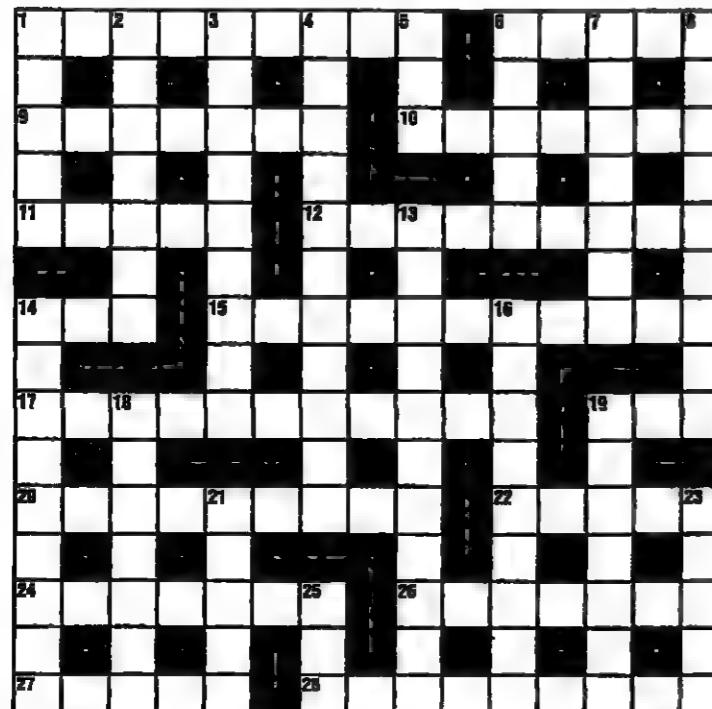
In-house tutors

Fifth-formers at a Cleveland school are being paid £250 an hour to act as "peer tutors" and help fellow students to prepare for their GCSEs. **Page 6**

Gene scientists join the fight on flab

■ The days of beanpoles exasperating plumper types by eating mounds of red meat and deep pan pizza with no discernible change in waistline may soon be over. A team of Californian scientists claims to have isolated a single gene, known as UCP2, that stops some people becoming fat whatever they eat and could be made to help others to lose weight. **Page 1**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,418



ACROSS

- In European port, closes damaged locks (5).
- Ring back about one feature of bed (5).
- Popular and mature, rejecting women's clique (2-5).
- Queen backs own Scots working (7).
- Rent increased or decreased? (3,2).
- Get into ground, having Rugby training in break (3).
- Think pound must be knocked off charge (3).
- Madcap owns motor, showing hesitation about drink (5-6).
- Write with editor's backing, in order to produce newspaper (11).
- Have gained after initial reverse (3).
- Painless effect of son replacing king in an African country (6).
- Protection soldier found in main retreat (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.417

BLASPHEMES B I
O O I A O B E R O N
C O M M O N E R D I T
K E E D I R A D U C E R
I F E E I K O
A N T S R E A B S O R B E D
S E M I L E A U
T U I T I O N S C E P T I C
R D S H O A E
O V E R S T R A I N S E A S
N A N D T U
G I L F I E L D R I N
M J I R O N A P L A T E
E A S I N G U T L I
R T O N T H E L E V E L

24 Refreshing drink in paper container brother's knocked back (7).

26 Agreement to double hospital's speciality, a drug (7).

27 Supply space for printer directly (5).

28 City University post one holds invalid? (4,5).

DOWN

- Ability to go over snow lines (5).
- One's left something to secure entry into shelter (7).
- One found in post box rarely? (9).
- Restrictive circles for divers' protection (6,5).
- Prescribed a number of games that have their points (3).
- Subsequently shown to be dead right? (5).
- Priman concealing old weariness (7).
- Given credit, fat man's restrained as an artisan (9).
- Anger meant changes in character (11).
- Cafe's rise possible result of cooking this? (9).
- Emotionally releasing from sectarian movement out of control (9).
- Inensitive, extreme, and having few prospects (4-3).
- Newspaper article about unknown material (7).
- A storm about British housing limit (5).
- Cut very thin, say (5).
- Serious complaint about a bill (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.417

BLASPHEMES B I
O O I A O B E R O N
C O M M O N E R D I T
K E E D I R A D U C E R
I F E E I K O
A N T S R E A B S O R B E D
S E M I L E A U
T U I T I O N S C E P T I C
R D S H O A E
O V E R S T R A I N S E A S
N A N D T U
G I L F I E L D R I N
M J I R O N A P L A T E
E A S I N G U T L I
R T O N T H E L E V E L

Times Two Crossword, page 52



Italian soldiers watch a patrol boat off the Puglian coast as they prepare to stop illegal immigrants from Albania. **Pages 1, 11, 16**

BUSINESS

Forward Group: The chairman of the electronics company will make a personal profit of £15 million after accepting a £129 million takeover bid from the American company PCB Investments. **Page 27**

Economy: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, strongly suggested that he will continue to resist higher interest rates in the run-up to the general election. **Page 27**

Telecoms: Ofcom ordered British Telecom to scrap an advertising campaign aimed at clawing back former customers. **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 1.2 points to close at 4307.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.3 to 98.0 after a fall from \$1.6290 to \$1.6197 and from DM27494 to DM27425. **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: England will play South Africa for the first time in an international at Old Trafford in May as a warm-up for the World Cup match against Poland. **Page 26**

Cricket: Discussions that involve players' representatives and senior administrators are set to open the way for a properly regulated transfer system in England. **Page 49**

Motor rallying: The Scottish driver Colin McRae, in a Subaru, won the Safari Rally by more than seven minutes. The victory in Kenya took him to the top of the world championship standings. **Page 52**

Athletics: Mary Decker-Slaney, in her fourth year as a veteran, will attempt to become the first woman to break the four-minute barrier for 1,500 metres indoors. **Page 52**

ARTS

Camera action: The National Portrait Gallery salutes the German photographer August Sander, who defied Nazi persecution to record his times. **Page 26**

Body language: Director and choreographer Nigel Charnock continues his trawl through modern despair with a new work, *The Message*, which combines dark words and movement. **Page 37**

Songs for supper: Cabaret in this country is not dead, but it's far from healthy. Now a group of London impresarios is trying to put things right. **Page 37**

Parade: Briten's three church parades are presented together in a four-and-a-half-hour evening in Birmingham — but in the wrong order. **Page 38**

FEATURES

Mind the baby: If ever two groups were divided by misunderstanding, Rachel Morris writes, it is those who want children and those who do not. **Page 14**

Coming of age: In the 1950s, Margaret Atwood, trying to make her name as a writer, found it more of a disadvantage being Canadian than being female. Now all that has changed. **Page 14**

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

God-given talents: Mark Andrews meets the Reverend Mother continuing the ancient tradition of those who have taken holy orders while developing a fruitful sideline — she is a sculptor. **Page 21**

LAW

Breaking up: Why has there been a rise in court costs for divorce proceedings, and is it limiting access to justice? **Page 39**

Look out: The Law Society cannot afford to be inward-looking, says Phillip Sycamore. **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

Openly backed by the Pakistani Army and benefiting from American neutrality, the Taliban has managed to take control in two years of two-thirds of the Afghan territory. The error was to believe in the creation of a democracy and of a national Afghan conscience from nothing. **— Liberation** **Page 19**

TV LISTINGS

Preview: If Columbus did not discover America, who was there before him? *Timewatch* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review**: Lynne Truss on the credits of *Kavanagh QC*. **Page 51**

OPINION

Youth on trial

Jack Straw's proposals may have been motivated by a desire to keep a poorly defended piece of traditional Tory terrain but he deserves credit for devoting attention to juvenile offending. **Page 17**

Tung-ted

If Mr Tung believes that curbs on press freedom are a small price to pay for keeping Beijing happy, that can only mean that he regards his freedom as negotiable. For Hong Kong, any such trade-off would be a material as well as a political disaster. **Page 17**

Diplomatic invoice

The invoice will doubtless arrive embossed with an elegant Foreign Office crest: "To His Excellency's services on behalf of Acme Engineering Ltd: one hour's exclusive lobbying of the President, together with an exposition of the Company catalogue, £3,000." **Page 51**

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Gender — as any tormented transsexual could tell you — will always lie at the heart of personality, but around that heart there is infinite scope for variety. There is no typical woman. **Page 14**

RICHARD OWEN

In Albania as in other East European states, the gangsters have emerged as the real post-communist power-brokers. **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Some minister in a broadcasting studio, press conference or interview, will say something about Europe before May 1 that will remind voters of the Tory's deep divisions. It is the politics of self-destruction. **Page 8**

OBITUARIES

David Murison, editor of the *Scottish National Dictionary*; Walter Ritchie, sculptor; Professor Peter Morris, modern politics and history at Aston University. **Page 19**

LETTERS

Shortage of NHS beds; libraries; human cost of arms for Iraq; traps and the fur trade. **Page 17**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE
Biting back: inside one of Britain's most go-ahead computer graphics groups

HOMES
Learn about house history and win a book that can help you to research your home

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 8pm: bright c=cloudy; d=drizzle; ds=dust; dr=dust; f=fog; g=gale; h=heat; m=rain; s=sleet; sh=snow; st=storm; w=wind; w-wind; w-wind & direction; w-wind & direction & sea conditions

GENERAL: England and Wales will be cloudy in southernmost counties with rain, heavy at times, but this will tend to die out. Northern counties should stay dry, with sunny spells after a chilly start. Winds, generally, will be light and mainly south-easterly. Scotland and Northern Ireland should stay largely dry with sunny intervals. Cloud will increase from the southwest later in the day with perhaps some drizzle in Northern Ireland and south-western counties of Scotland by evening.

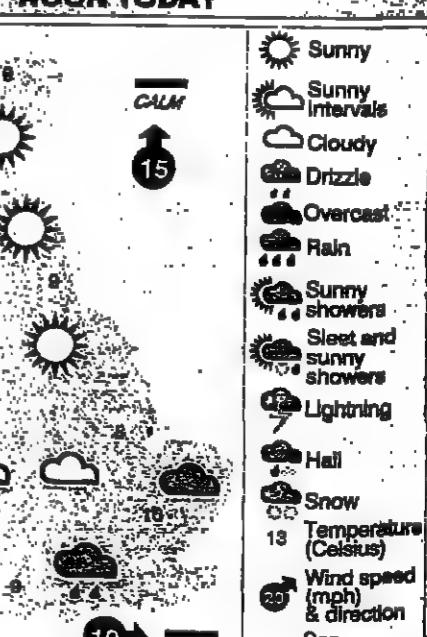
London, SE England, Central S, England, Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Wind light to moderate, mainly south-easterly. Mid. Max 10C (50F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind southerly moderate. Max 9C (48F).

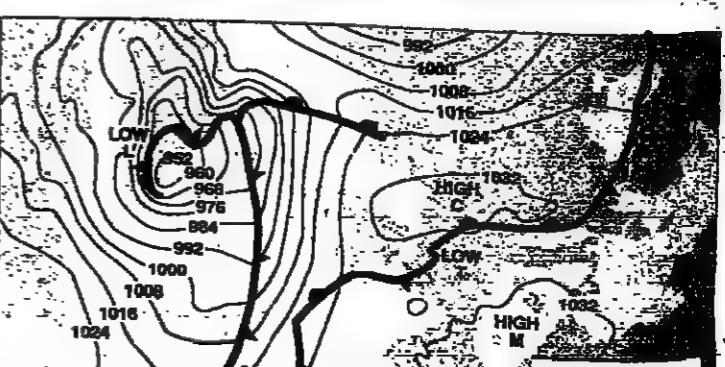
Central Highlands, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind south or south-westerly fresh. Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: mostly cloudy and damp; becoming brighter from the northwest later.

HOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high C will drift southeast while low T will lose its identity. Low W will form two centres, move east and fill. High M will remain in situ with little change.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	08.41	21.12	10.59	Leith	08.47	21.12	10.45
Aberdeen	08.41	3.5	10.59	Dover	06.12	7.6	18.55
Avalonmouth	01.30	10.1	14.17	Portsmouth	06.02	2.9	18.09
Bawdsey	05.00	2.9	14.28	Southampton	04.25	22	17.09
Cardiff	01.16	9.5	14.30	Manx	06.44	3.8	19.92
Devonport	08.51	5.5	18.35	Milford Haven	06.51	5.3	18.33
Dover	08.56	3.4	13.48	Dunraven	01.14	2.9	13.43
Greenock	07.30	2.9	12.06	Portland	11.58	4.3	—
Hawick	06.39	3.3	19.15	Portsmouth	04.05	3.9	18.91
Holyhead	05.33	4.5	18.18	Shoreham	06.02	3.9	18.32
Hull (Albert D)	05.51	7.2	13.39	Southampton</			

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ARTS

Life as it really was
in August Sander's
photographs
PAGES 36-38



LAW

Tragic result of
a Shirley
Valentine affair
PAGES 39-41



SPORT

Age no barrier
in Slaney's
chase for gold
PAGES 46-52

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
50, 51

TUESDAY MARCH 4 1997

Former NatWest trader 'sent on leave'

By ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE derivatives trader at the centre of an investigation into a £50 million write-off at NatWest was yesterday suspended from his City job.

Bear Stearns, a US securities house, confirmed that Kyriacos Papouli is currently on leave pending further information.

Mr Papouli left his relatively junior position at NatWest Markets in December. Last Friday the banking group was forced to announce to the stock market that it had set aside £50 million after discovering "mispricing errors in its interest rate options book."

Nell Dodgeon, a senior trader at NatWest, remains suspended "for failure to supervise, pending the conclusion of an internal inquiry."

Shares of NatWest fell heavily yesterday, closing down 27p at 731p after touching 713p as the City reacted to Friday's disclosure.

NatWest Markets is now the subject of investigations by the Bank of England, which supervises interest rate options, and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers.

Pensioning 29
HSBC results 29
Bank takes up arms 31

and futures dealers, which authorises individual market traders.

NatWest, the UK's biggest clearing bank, has insisted that it knew nothing of the loss-making trades in the volatile interest rate options market, which can be used to limit or cap loss-making positions in the event of fluctuating global interest rates, until last Thursday.

NatWest is now expected to face disciplinary action by the SFA for its supervisory shortcomings. This could result in a hefty fine and the suspension of senior traders if they are found to have failed in the supervisory roles.

The Bank could also institute disciplinary proceedings against senior individuals within NatWest Markets for failure to supervise.

This sanction is available under the Banking Act but applies only to the most senior managers who report to the board of directors of a bank or regulated financial institution.

In this case the most senior supervisors are Jean-François Nguyen, managing director of the interest rate market, and Chip Kruger and Gary Holloway, joint heads of NatWest's global debt markets operations.



Kenneth Clarke tests his sewing machine skills at Annie Leather Ltd, near Brick Lane, yesterday while taking an upbeat message to businessmen in the East End

Clarke keen to keep lid on interest rates

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE last night set out his stall for a further five years as Chancellor, giving an upbeat assessment of Britain's economic prospects. He strongly suggested that he would continue to resist higher interest rates in the run-up to the election.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the British Retail Consortium, Mr Clarke said that he was not faced with a boom-bust Britain, with the shop-till-you-drop mentality of the 1980s. He said that the current economy, reshaped by Conservative deregulation and labour market reforms, would continue to deliver healthy growth and that there was currently an exceptional lack of inflationary pressures.

His remarks coincided with the latest economic evidence which showed a slowdown in the rate of growth of manufac-

turing industry as the strength of the pound hit export orders and kept industrial prices on a downward path, a deceleration in the growth of narrow money supply and a weakening in consumer credit growth. All three appeared to support the Chancellor's recent resistance to Bank of England demands for higher interest rates, providing evidence that the economy, if anything, has cooled off a little.

The Chancellor meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, for their monthly interest rate discussion tomorrow, with virtually nobody betting on a rate rise. A poll of 20 economists by Reuters showed total unanimity that rates will be left on hold at 6 per cent and the Life futures market said that interest-rate expectations have been scaled back even further. The mar-

kets are now expecting rates to rise by only a half percentage point by September and by a further half by the end of 1998. Mr Clarke said last night:

"For every commentator concerned about the prospect of too strong growth, another is concerned about the effect of the strong pound on activity. I am happily placed in the middle."

Mr Clarke emphasised that his long-running disagreement on interest rates with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, came down to only a quarter-point difference of opinion. The Governor thinks inflation will dip below 2.5 per cent this year, although he thinks that, on unchanged policies, it could be around 3 per cent in two years' time," he said. "But, as he has said himself, that is well within the margins of error."

The City saw yesterday's

economic data offering strong support to the Chancellor's resistance to higher rates. The latest report from British purchasing managers showed that manufacturing activity continued to grow in February for the ninth consecutive month, but that the pace of expansion decelerated. The purchasing managers' index dipped to 53.5 from 53.9 in January.

The main culprit was sterling's strength which sapped export orders. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said: "The continued strength of the pound, by making UK goods more expensive in overseas markets, was increasingly being blamed for lost orders."

At the same time, the pound's strength had a very positive impact on prices, damping down the cost of imported raw materials. Input

prices fell for the 16th consecutive month and registered the sharpest monthly fall since July. Nearly a third of all purchasing managers reported lower average prices.

The Bank of England published figures showing that year-on-year growth in M0 narrow money supply fell to 6.5 per cent in February from 7.3 per cent in January.

Net consumer credit rose by £833 million in January compared with a £983 million rise in December. This was the lowest rise in any month since June, largely reflecting weak borrowing on credit cards. Dharshini David, of HSBC Markets, said: "These figures imply that borrowing by consumers remains at a prudent and sustainable level and thus provides little cause for concern."

Upbeat Clarke, page 1

Forward chief's family makes £50m

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE chairman of Forward Group, the electronics company, will make a personal profit of £15 million after accepting a £129 million takeover bid from PCB Investments of America.

Raymond Chamberlain said: "This is a sizeable amount of money, but it won't change my lifestyle. I have been in business for 30 years and I have been successful and enjoyed my wealth."

Mr Chamberlain's immediate family is to receive a further £35 million if the takeover goes through. PCB has so far secured only the Chamberlains' 40 per cent stake in Forward at 230p per share, a 40 per cent premium on Friday's close.

The £35 million will be held in trust for Mr Chamberlain's son and daughter, both teenagers. He said: "They don't know about this yet. They are not really old enough to understand." Mr Chamberlain's family own a total of 22 million Forward shares.

Takeover negotiations started only three weeks ago. Mr Chamberlain had held exploratory talks with PCB over Christmas, but it was not until last month that the group, owned by a private investment fund, made a bid.

"Until recently I hadn't even heard of them," Mr Chamberlain said.

He will continue to work in his present position at Forward. "Forward is in a very exciting position. Originally we wanted to be a global player in five to seven years. But with PCB's unlimited resources we will be in the top three worldwide in two years. That will get me out of bed in the morning," Mr Chamberlain said.

Forward shares closed at 225p yesterday. The irrevocable acceptance of the PCB bid made by Mr Chamberlain will remain binding even in the event of a higher bidder.

If a competing offer is forthcoming and the PCB offer lapses, PCB has been granted an option to acquire shares amounting to 12 per cent of the equity from Mr Chamberlain.

City Diary, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100 4307.1 (-1.2)
FTSE All share 2107.27 (-0.57)
Nikkei 18429.13 (-127.87)
New York 8872.51 (-2.23)
S&P Composite 750.43 (-0.38)

FEDERAL BOND INDEXES

Federal Bonds 87.94% (5.94%)
Long Bond 8.83% (8.81%)

LENDING RATES

3m Interbank 6.4% (6.3%)
Lira long gilt future (Mar) 112.4 (112.4)

INTERBANK

New York 1.8178% (1.8285)
London 1.8182% (1.8381)
S 2.7428% (2.7525)
FT 2.2822% (2.2920)
SF 2.3882% (2.4060)
Yen 195.69 (195.91)
S Index 98.0 (98.3)

£ DOLLAR

London 1.8981% (1.8986)
DM 0.7218% (0.7050)
FT 1.4077% (1.3977)
SF 121.28% (120.17)
Yen 103.8 (103.8)

TOKYO close Yen 120.73

YEN 1. NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) \$16.80 (\$16.80)

WTI GOLD

London close \$368.65 (\$368.65)

* denotes midday trading price

BT forced to scrap campaign

OFTEL, the regulator, has ordered British Telecom to scrap an advertising campaign designed to entice former customers with discounts (George Sivell writes).

The campaign, launched on February 3 with a commercial by Rory McGrath, the comedian, offered new customers 25 per cent off all UK direct dial numbers for three months.

OFTEL said: "We have acted firmly because the campaign is not fair competition between operators. BT has discriminated unduly in targeting other operators' customers and has failed to obtain the director-general's consent to the below-cost element of the offer. BT is therefore in breach of its licence."

BT will examine the complaints made and will comply with the order immediately.

Rock windfall to top £1,300

By ANNE ASHWORTH

ABOUT 900,000 Northern Rock customers can expect to receive a windfall of as much as £1,475 when the society makes its stock market debut in October, ending 147 years as a mutual organisation.

Each saving and borrowing member of the Northern Rock, which is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, will receive 500 free shares, estimated to be worth between 260p and 295p.

The news, announced yesterday, means that anyone who was a saver with each of the societies becoming banks this year or being taken over (Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Bristol & West) can expect

to receive an average total payout of some £6,000.

Earlier predictions had put the Northern Rock payout at £1,000 per member, but the recent rise in the share price of Abbey National, the most closely comparable quoted company, has boosted the estimated value of Northern Rock to some £1.25 billion.

Adam Appleby, Northern Rock's executive director, defended the decision to make a basic distribution of an equal amount of shares to members, rather than opting for the Halifax and Woolwich model of a variable distribution based on the size of balance.

Christopher Sharp, North-

ern Rock's managing director, said: "A basic distribution leaves eight out of ten of our members better off than under a variable benefit scheme."

Northern Rock savers will benefit if they had a balance of at least £50 at April 2, 1996, and of at least £100 at mid-night on December 31, 1996. Borrowers must have had a mortgage of at least £100 at April 2, 1996, and at December 31, 1996.

The society confirmed that it would be establishing a charitable foundation on flotation. Each year the foundation will receive 5 per cent of pre-tax profits, equivalent to £3 million in 1996.

With no redemption penalties, our new two-year fixed rate deal is especially attractive. Take advantage of a highly competitive rate for two years - and you're still free to review your circumstances at any time. The details:

* 6.49% (6.7%) APR fixed until 1/3/99
* No redemption penalties

* Available for purchases and remortgages up to 80%

* Advances of up to 95% at 6.75% (7.0% APR)

* Offer on new business rate on expiry of the fixed rate term

* Lender's arrangement fee of £25 added to loan

For a written quotation, contact your nearest John Charcol branch on the Freephone number below.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

French bid speculation drives CU price higher

CITY speculators were again driving shares of Commercial Union higher on revised talk that a bid may be just around the corner.

This comes just a week after the group announced a profits setback and lower than expected net asset value. Last night the price closed 8p higher at 72p — just 7p below its all-time high — on turnover of four million shares.

This latest burst of speculative activity began to gather momentum on Friday after a large line of shares changed hands at a hefty premium to the ruling market price.

Talk yesterday focused on a bid from France at around 90p, valuing the entire group at £6 billion. However, the current weakness of the French franc against sterling would make this unlikely. In the past, CU has also been linked with Allianz, the German insurer.

Merger talks with BAT Industries broke down just before Christmas. BAT, which reports tomorrow, has extensive interests in the financial services sector through Eagle Star, Farmers in the US and Allied Dunbar. Its shares rose 8p to 545p.

Share prices generally clawed back an early 21-point deficit, encouraged by the rally in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street after opening losses. The FTSE 100 index finished just 1.2 down at 4,307.1 with turnover reaching a massive 1.4 billion shares, partly boosted by share buybacks in Yorkshire Water, 21p easier at 355.1p, and Southern Electric 30p dearer at 428.1p. Southern is the last of the independent regional electricity companies.

NatWest touched 713.1p before closing 7p down at 731.1p in the wake of Friday's late-breaking news about a £50 million write-off relating to errors in its interest rate options book. Two traders have been suspended pending an inquiry.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to full-year figures from HSBC, with the price losing 30p at £15.52. Investors were said to be switching, instead, into Standard Chartered, up 24p at 86p.

A second bear raid turned Maid, the information technology group, on its head with the price losing an early 16.1p lead to close 8.1p down on the day at 170p. Last year Maid was trading at 34p but hit a



Christopher Burgin of Bluebird Toys, where shares rose 21p

low of 150p a few weeks back after a bear raid. The company was forced to issue a trading update and has since announced a number of lucrative "alliances".

Forward Group stood out with a jump of 6p to 225p after PCB Investments, a privately owned US investment fund, made an agreed £129 million offer. The terms value

shares in the Daily Mail and General Trust beat a

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Asda flows to the rescue

NOT slow to make the most of a business opportunity, Asda came quickly to the rescue of householders in Hertfordshire yesterday after an outbreak of stomach infections linked to contaminated water. The supermarket chain sent out more than 34,000 gallons of its bottled Yorkshire Water, fresh from the Pennines, to stores affected by Three Valley Water's alert. It cut the price of its two-litre Farm Stores bottled water by 6p and insisted that fresh produce be washed in the bottled or boiled variety.

Missing link

NEVER work with animals, children or video links to Germany. John Edmonds, GMB general-secretary, was yesterday due to announce a trade union "first" — a mutual benefits link-up with Germany's IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik — using a live TV link between London and Hanover. But as Edmonds drummed his fingers in the gloomy surroundings of London's National Liberal Club, all that appeared on screen was an enticing image of a table, hardly a metre from the camera. Edmonds eventually resorted to good old-fashioned steam talk.



"Have your shares really taken a tumble — or is it merely a mispricing error?"

Food for thought

NEWS of a £50 million black hole is music to Sam Jaffa's ears. The BBC business correspondent's latest book, *Sage As House*, chronicling financial scandals who have worked in the City since the 17th century, comes out next month. He starts with the South Sea Bubble and goes through to Guiness, BCCI, and Barings. "The thing with fraud stories is that it's always pretty good timing — there's always likely to be one," he says. Jaffa tells me that fraudsters share characteristics: they don't need much sleep and eat everything or nothing. Over lunch with a contact, former insider trader Ivan Boesky supped on a single grape.

RONALD Gould stood down yesterday as chief executive of Barclay Trust, the bank's retail asset management arm. The official line from Barclays is that he resigned "to further his career somewhere else". Something of a coup for internal promotions — Jane Platt, Gould's former deputy and a former chief operating officer of an arm of BZW, will step into his shoes.

Most wanted

STEPHEN Robinson was a wanted man on Sunday night. When Hicks Muse Tate & Furst — under the guise of PCB Investments — said it would buy Forward Group for £129 million, a car was sent out to hunt down the electronics analyst at Birmingham-based Albert E. Sharp. Robinson was bundled on a train to London for an early morning meeting with Forward. Raymond Chamberlain, chairman of the electronics firm, got what he was after — his favourite analyst and a follower of Forward for almost three years.

MORAG PRESTON



Nick Leeson generated lucrative bonuses for himself and his bosses. However, senior executives often seem able to walk away when things go wrong

Bank takes up arms against the 'mother of all positions'

Jon Ashworth and Robert Miller report on efforts to rein in the City's bonus culture

award half the bonus in cash, with the balance in shares in the firm, locked in for three years. This both incentivises the trader, and makes it more expensive for rivals to buy out staff.

Another trend sees firms moving closer to the old partnership ethos, in which a trader who makes £10 million would receive, perhaps, £1 million, with the rest ploughed back into the firm. If the same trader lost heavily the following year, some of the money would be clawed back. This culture would further discourage reckless risk-taking.

One point that is often missed, is that bonuses are not just about who makes the most money. Someone who takes a smaller risk using less capital stands to earn a bigger bonus than someone who uses more capital on a riskier punt. The quality of the profit is what counts. There is also often a team element, in which the head of a trading desk will be given a sum to distribute among his colleagues.

This said, the Bank is clearly correct in highlighting the potential dangers of the bonus system. But it is wrong to assume that the City has degenerated into a vast, unregulated, saloon bar, filled with traders playing the financial equivalent of Russian roulette. No one wants to be the next Barings, and firms are monitoring trades with unequivocal passion. Traders do take risks, but that is the way the City works.

What the Bank is doing, in its *Financial Stability Review*, is delivering a stern admonition: a well-timed rap on the knuckles from the headmaster. Watch those bonuses, it implores. Give star dealers a free rein, but don't let those trades run away with themselves. Make sure those risk-monitoring systems are up to scratch.

The point was amplified yesterday by Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, who told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "We don't want to stop them taking risks. We want them to look at the way their payment incentive systems, which are very powerful drivers of behaviour, interact with their risk controls."

"It doesn't make much sense to have a bonus system which persuades traders to take on more and more risky deals, and then a rather weak risk control system that comes along afterwards to check that they are behaving themselves."

"We are pointing out in the report that the way the traders are paid is often a one-way bet with the individual."

They get paid more if they take more risks, but if it goes wrong the employer, rather than the employee, loses. They should restructure schemes to make it more related to long-term rather than short-term efficiency."

Many firms would argue that they are doing precisely that. It is becoming increasingly common for firms to

trades and positions are monitored on a daily basis, if not hourly. The sheer complexity of modern financial markets makes this increasingly difficult.

Attention is currently focused on the £50 million "black hole" at NatWest Markets, which stirred the bonus pot last October when it bought J.O. Hambro Magan, the highly successful corporate finance boutique. NatWest refused to confirm the price tag, but market speculation, never denied, put the basic deal at £20 million, a sum that could grow to £150 million after 120 staff of the combined operation were locked in by "golden handcuffs". Some of those contracts are said to be worth as much as £2 million each for the best performers.

Since its launch in 1988 and its purchase by NatWest Markets, Hambro Magan has advised on transactions with a total value of more than £18 billion. Many market commentators argue, however, that the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) market is near its peak, with deals in the pipeline that will take up to two years to come to fruition. By then the M&A market will have cooled and NatWest may be faced with an enormously high salary and guaranteed bonus structure that is no longer appropriate to the more straightened



Howard Davies says some bonuses offer traders a one-way bet

BUSINESS LETTERS

Losing points over Trade Fair Support Scheme changes

From the Shadow Small Business Minister

Sir, Anthony Nelson is quite wrong to attack the deputy chairman of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council for "missing the point" on the changes to the Trade Fair Support Scheme (Business Letters, February 25). The minister's remarks are, if I may say so, typical of this Government's "we know best" approach to business support.

It is surely Mr Nelson who misses the point. If he had read the original letter — and,

if his postbag is anything like mine, the many letters from trade organisations and others which have flooded in since the Government made its announcement — he would be aware of their very strong sense of anger about this decision. To give just one example, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce wrote to me of the dire consequences for the UK's export effort and the jobs which depend upon it.

Ian Campbell, Director-General of the Institute of Export, Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Labour), House of Commons, SW1.

Sir John and BAA aware of public concern over proposed Terminal 5

From the Director, Corporate and Public Affairs, BAA plc

Sir, Mr Arthur Charlesworth (letter, January 29) accuses Sir John Egan of overlooking public reaction to the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow.

Gallup have now conducted five major opinion polls in the area, and each has shown a clear majority in support of T5, increasing with each poll. Sir John and

BAA are not complacent about the public inquiry. It will, after all, take longer and cost more than any public inquiry in history, so we can hardly be unaware both of the need to make the case and to address the concerns of the local community.

However, we also remain of the view that there is no alternative to T5 if we are to meet the demand for air travel in the 21st century, and that the powerful economic and

Billing change belies promise made to customers after Gas demerger

From J. E. Redmall

Sir, A full-page advertisement by British Gas claims that demerger would not result in any immediate changes to the service it provided to its customers. This needs to be taken with a pinch of salt.

For as long as I can remember I have been able to pay the cost of gas supply and of my service contract in one bill. On November 21, 1996, the business director of British Gas Home Energy wrote to me — and no doubt to many others — to say that, because of changes to the billing system, on renewal of the service agreement, customers would be asked to pay for gas and service on separate bills. I could, however, continue to receive one bill if I paid by direct pay as I had done for over a year.

I expected therefore when my service cover was renewed to be given the option of continued payment with my gas supply through direct pay. But no. On December 31 I was asked to pay by lump sum in advance and was not given the

option I had been promised in the letter of November 21. I replied objecting and drawing attention to that letter.

On February 10 British Gas Home replied regretting that I was misinformed in the letter of November 21 and saying that the option of paying monthly for both gas usage and service was not now possible. They added, and this is where my specific complaint about British Gas's advertisement comes in, "It is unfortunate that the needs of customers were not wholly catered for in the overall demerger to (sic) the different trading arms of British Gas."

So how much trust can customers place in any of the assurances given in the advertisement? I should add that I am pursuing the matter with the chairman of British Gas and with the Gas Consumers Council.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. REDMALL
The Sedge House,
Farm Lane,
Ditchling,
Hastings,
West Sussex.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

A question of real values

Last month I wrote an article which compared Britain's long-term record of monetary management with that of Germany, France and Japan. Specifically I said that British monetary policy had been more successful at protecting the value of long-term savings. As I expected this provoked a large number of incredulous and indignant letters. Since I am sure that the dismay and scepticism expressed by my correspondents is shared by many other readers — and since I made at least two arithmetical errors on February 14 — I thought it worthwhile to devote another article to clarifying some of my points about the long-term performance of savings in Britain.

First let me repeat my main assertions. According to the official index of retail prices, the pound in 1995

had a purchasing power equal to about one fifteenth of its 1951 value and about one twentieth of its value of 1900. More precisely, the 1995 pound was worth 5.3 per cent of its value in 1918. This may seem like a terrible debasement, but it actually represented a perfectly decent performance, both in comparison with other countries and in relation to the returns paid on British investments in the long-term. Now let me answer some questions readers have raised.

How could I say that a 20-fold debasement of the currency is a "perfectly decent performance"? The answer lies in the magic of compound interest. The 20-fold increase in prices recorded since 1918 translates into an average annual inflation rate of only 3.9 per cent. (Unfortunately in the February 14 article I gave an incorrect figure of 4.7 per cent — a consequence of mislaying my much-prized financial calculator.)

Compound interest is not just a statistical curiosity — it protects investors from inflation by providing very high total returns over long periods of time. A saver who bought government bonds in 1919 and reinvested all interest payments in additional purchases of gilts would have earned an annual return of 1.9 per cent above inflation from 1919 to

1995. This means that £1,000 invested in gilts in 1919 would be worth £4,200 today in terms of the retail prices prevailing in 1919. The original investment would have grown to £80,000 in actual cash value by 1995. (The figure of £200,000 I gave in the February 14 article was wrong because of my error on inflation.)

Of course this long-term investment growth would only have been achieved by reinvesting each year's interest payments in more gilt-edged securities. You cannot reinvest your income and live on it at the same time.

To do that you have to take the risk of buying real assets — such as property or shares. Anyone who did that in Britain has been handsomely rewarded in the long-term. Many of the people who believe they were "robbed" by inflation conveniently forget about the profits they have made by owning their homes and the very generous returns they have received, from private pension funds and the National Insurance system, largely at the expense of the younger generation.

The returns I quoted also made no allowance for tax. After tax, a British saver who kept all his money in interest-paying securities would have seen a fall in the real value of his investments, certainly in the post-war period. But then, most taxpayers in postwar Britain kept fixed-interest investments in tax shelters such as pension funds or Lloyd's.

Some readers have

made another objection to my statement that long-term investments in Britain have comfortably retained their real value.

They have pointed out that some things — particular wages and property prices — have risen much more than 20-fold since the prewar years. This is perfectly true.

Wages and real assets (such as property and shares) are bound to rise faster than retail prices in an economy that is enjoying real growth.

But this has nothing to do with inflation or bad monetary management. On the contrary, growing real wages and rising real asset prices are a measure of long-run economic success.

The switch of emphasis to fund managers is a natural evolution. City houses have seen profits from traditional trading activities in the market fluctuate wildly. Therefore, they reasoned, if they could gain sufficient funds to manage these, it would generate useful annual fee income without the market volatility.

Talk of a bonus meltdown may be a little premature. Ronnie Fox, the leading City employment lawyer, said: "The threat is a bit exaggerated. Traders take risks because that is what they are paid to do. In my experience, the banks are very well aware of the risks." Whether their systems will ever be able to pick up on deliberate market manipulation is another matter entirely.

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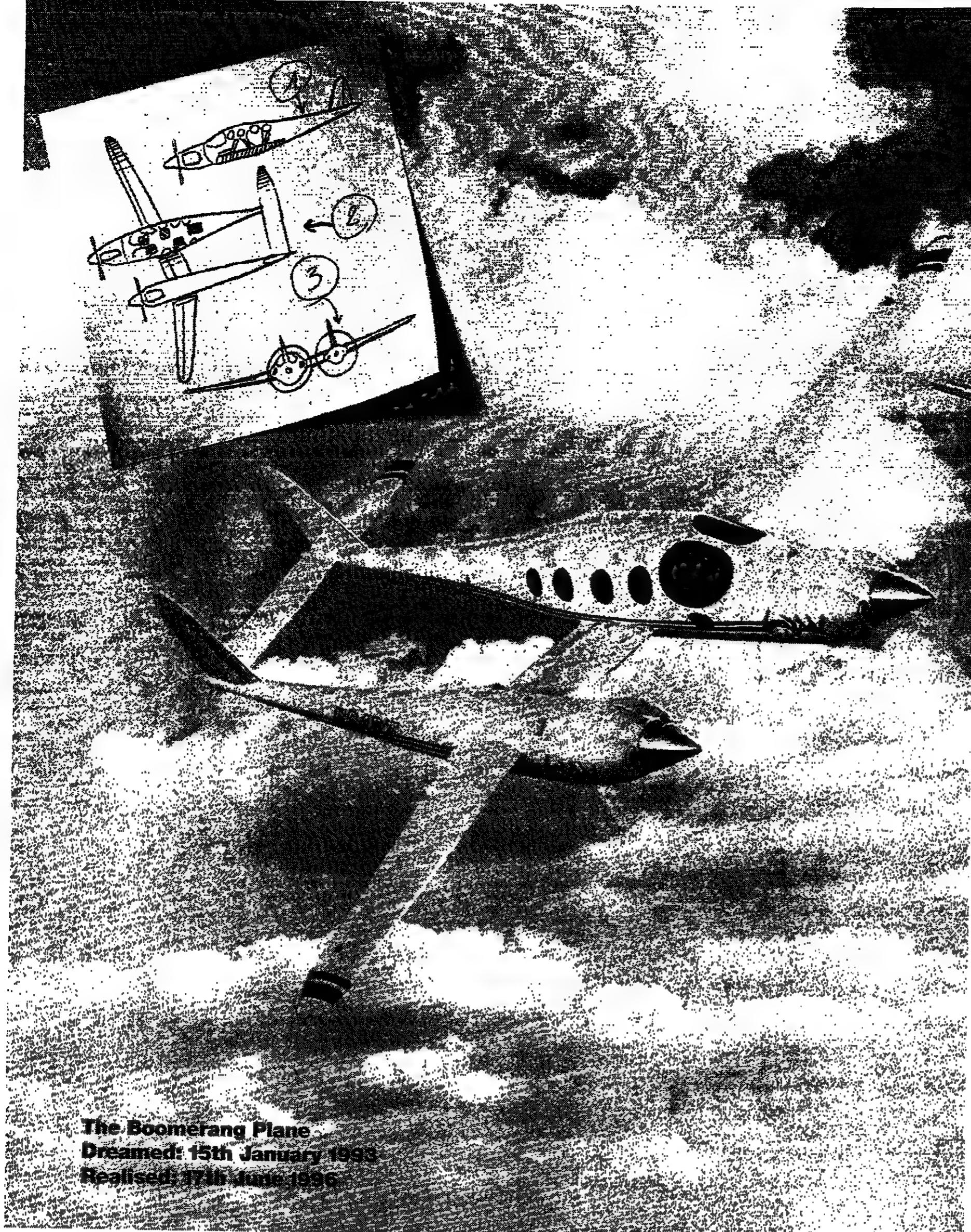
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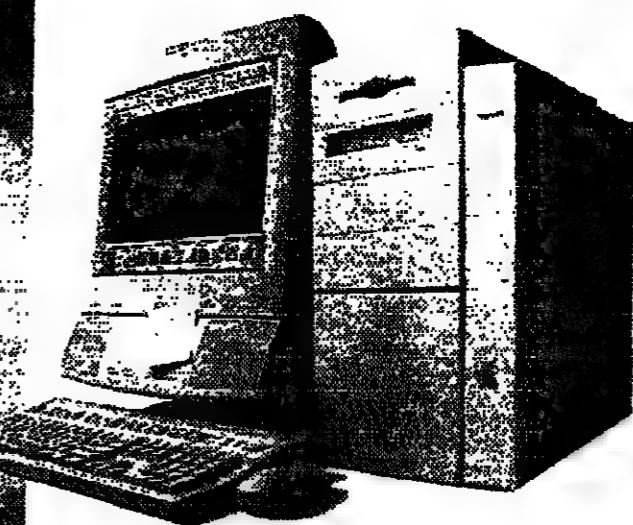
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The Boomerang Plane
Dreamed: 15th January 1992
Realised: 17th June 1996



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Burt Rutan had a dream – to build a twin-engine plane that would fly more economically, symmetrically and significantly safer than conventional designs. Fortunately, Burt Rutan also had a computer designed to help people dream. An Apple™ Macintosh™ personal computer. Macintosh computers are packed with some of the most advanced technology in the industry, yet they're still the easiest, most intuitive computers on earth. They don't get in the way of ideas, but help people to explore, expand – and explain themselves. Macintosh computers help you ask difficult questions. Find elusive answers and meet the many challenges of trying anything new. Ultimately, Apple Macintosh computers help you get where you're going, even if the final destination is a place you never imagined at the start. On June 17th 1996, Burt Rutan realised his dream. When will you realise yours?

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Apple 150

Superheroes enlisted as Bluebird profits fall

BY MARTIN BARROW

BLUEBIRD TOYS, one of Britain's last independent toy manufacturers, suffered a sharp fall in profits last year. The company blamed excess stocks of Polly Pocket, its enduring best-selling miniature dolls, in its main markets at the beginning of the year, adversely affecting orders.

Despite the setback, Polly Pocket, launched in 1990, remains second only to Barbie in popularity among girls' toys and the company remains confident the overstocking has been

overcome. It is also adding to its Superheroes range. Yesterday, the company reported a decline in 1996 pre-tax profits to £9.9 million from £17.8 million in the previous year on sales that fell to £67.7 million from £87.3 million. Earnings were 16.4p a share, down from 24.2p. The total dividend is maintained at 9p a share, with an unchanged final of 6.75p.

Despite the profits reverse, the shares rose 21p to 185p yesterday. However, they remain well adrift of last year's high of 35p, struck when the company was at the centre of takeover speculation. Hasbro, the American toy manu-

facturer, has a 6.7 per cent interest in Bluebird. The company, which also has strong trading links with Mattel, yesterday announced the appointment of Barry Thomas as logistics director after 12 years with Hasbro UK.

Bluebird, whose range of toys also includes old favourites such as Etch-a-Sketch and Plasticine, took an exceptional charge of £1.1 million against restructuring, which included the company's withdrawal from manufacturing at Merthyr Tydfil with the loss of 88 jobs.

Martin Bunting, chairman, said: "We have a very focused, newly streamlined and cash

generative business which should allow us to capitalise on the many opportunities for the continued development of Bluebird."

An agreement with Toy Biz, another American company, will see Bluebird adding the Incredible Hulk, X-Men, Iron Man, Silver Surfer and The Fantastic Four, the Marvel cartoon characters, to its Superheroes range.

Bluebird, based in Swindon, Wiltshire, bought back 12.9 per cent of its share capital during 1996, at a cost of £14.5 million and plans to seek authorisation for another buyback at its annual meeting. It had net cash of £26 million.

Gremlich to check out of Millennium hotel group

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EDOUARD GREMLICH, who steered Millennium & Copthorne Hotels on to the stock market last year, is to step down as chief executive to return to the United States.

The hotel company said yesterday that it was beginning a search for a replacement, although Mr Gremlich would remain in place until a successor is found.

The announcement came as Millennium & Copthorne unveiled a 6.5 per cent rise in full-year profits to £39 million, the company's first full set of results since floating last April. Shares in the company rose 6p to 33p, compared with a flotation price of 27.8p.

Turnover jumped 13 per cent to £180 million, while gearing stood at 49 per cent at the end of December 1996. Millennium owns a total of 23 hotels in the UK, France, Germany and the US as well as a 42 per cent stake in the Plaza hotel in New York.

European Leisure pays out

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPEAN LEISURE is set to pay its first dividend for six years after unveiling a 37 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £3 million.

Ian Rock, chief executive, said sales had remained strong in the second half and the group was confident of an improved performance over the full year.

Turnover rose 14 per cent to £42 million. Profits in the entertainment and snooker division were flat at £3.6 million, with sales in bars and discos improving only modestly. European Leisure said it is aiming to add three new Berlin or Liberty brand bars and eight new Riley's American pool and snooker facilities this year.

Maytag, the amusement machine division, more than doubled profits to £1.4 million boosted by the deregulation measures that were introduced last year.

The successful rights issue in October helped to reduce gearing to 57 per cent from 90 per cent in 1995.

Shares in the company slipped back 12.5p to close at 135p, compared with a rights issue price of 145p. The company will pay an interim dividend of 1p on July 3.

BP and Shell find oilfield

BY CARL MORTISHED

BP and Shell have made a new oil discovery about 100 miles west of the Shetlands near the existing "Atlantic Margin" oil fields of Foinaven and Schedaill.

BP said yesterday that an exploration well in block 20/4/19 had encountered potentially commercial volumes of hydrocarbons in water depths of 850 metres.

The find is the first in the area since BP discovered Schiehallion—an oilfield with a potential 500 million recoverable barrels—about four years ago.

Intensive drilling activity by BP, Shell and other major oil companies had thus far failed to make further breakthroughs. BP said yesterday that no such conclusion could yet be drawn from the Schedaill find.

BP's announcement has re-

opened the well, but examination of the cores confirmed the existence of hydrocarbons.

Richard Oliver, deputy chief executive of BP Exploration, said that further work was needed to establish whether oil could be recovered in commercial quantities.

In response to the discovery of the oilfield, which has been named Schedaill after a Scottish mountain, the DTI is releasing two new blocks for exploration to the north of the find.

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BP's announcement has re-

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

1996/7	High	Low	Company	Price	99	+	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
326	479	467	Alfred Gowers	420	-	4	12	12
121	479	467	Barry (P)	27	27	18.5		
123	479	467	Bell's	27	27	18.5		
125	479	467	Chivas Regal	100	-	100		
126	479	467	Coronation A	44	44	12		
127	479	467	Coronation W	44	44	12		
128	479	467	Davidoff	242	-	242		
129	479	467	Heublein	35	-	35		
130	479	467	Hiram Walker	84	84	12		
131	479	467	Imperial Distillers	120	-	120		
132	479	467	SA Interbrew	54	54	14.5		
133	479	467	Stolichnaya	120	-	120		
134	479	467	Tequila (P)	41	41	12		
135	479	467	Whisky (P)	120	-	120		
136	479	467	Wise (P)	120	-	120		
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138	479	467	Wise (P)	120	-	120		
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■ VISUAL ART 1

The unflinching view from August Sander's camera is revealed at the National Portrait Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2

... and the Barbican is also displaying the pioneers of the Thirties, as Lucie Rie ...



■ VISUAL ART 3

... and Hans Coper are shown to be two of the most innovative forces in pottery this century



■ VISUAL ART 4

Have we belittled Alfred Wallis? A new London show offers a timely reassessment

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the photographs of August Sander at the National Portrait Gallery. Plus ceramics and other shows

A finger on the pulse of his time

The earliest photograph in August Sander's retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery offers no hint of the powerful transformation to come. Seated with his young wife Anna in their Austrian home, Sander plucks at a lute and seems lost in melancholy introspection. His carefully pointed moustache and beard lend him the air of a dreamily aristocratic portrait by Van Dyck. And the deep shadows spreading across the room threaten to engulf both husband and wife, giving the entire image a sense of romantic mystery.

Taken in 1904, soon after Sander opened a successful photographic studio in Linz, this artfully composed and "painterly" picture belongs to the old century rather than the new. Only in 1910 did he start experimenting with an alternative approach. Returning to his native Germany, where he set up a studio in Cologne, Sander began photographing inhabitants of the rural area around his birthplace in the Westerwald. Many of his bucolic subjects look like the wizened sitters in Rembrandt's late portraits, and to that extent Sander still seems heavily indebted to the Old Masters. But he was already beginning to see these gnarled "people of the soil" as archetypes rather than individuals. Far from identifying them by name, he called them "the sage", "the intellectual" and "the fighter, or revolutionary". Their intense gaze and sober stance help to justify these resounding titles. Here, Sander left, were figures whose lifelong connections with nature made them the inevitable starting-point for all his subsequent explorations.

War interrupted the immediate development of a fully encompassing vision. By the 1920s, though, Sander's alliance with the so-called "Cologne Progressives" encouraged him to pursue his ambition to its limits. The look of his photographs changed as well. Rembrandtesque shadows and selfconscious compositional frills were eradicated.

Photography possessed its own singular virtues. Sander believed. None of his sitters pretends to do anything other than submit to the scrutiny of the lens. The predominant mood is cool and objective. Determined to rely on photography's inherent ability to record with unwavering di-

rectness, Sander purged his work of anything that might interfere with such an austere aim.

He used the camera to capture the pulse of his time, without recourse to clever retouching and elaborate lighting. The figures in his photographs seem to emerge unmediated, rarely smiling and confident that they are being appraised on their own terms. In a Confession of Faith written for his landmark exhibition at the Cologne Kunsthalle in 1927, Sander declared his "immodest" desire to "see things as they are and not as they should or could be". While counting painters and sculptors among his friends, he clearly considered that the camera was uniquely equipped to fulfil this clear-sighted goal. "I hate nothing more than sugary photographs with tricks, poses and effects," his manifesto concluded. "So allow me to be honest and tell the truth about our age and its people."

Such an unadorned approach might have produced a dull body of work. But the apparent straightforwardness of Sander's uncompromising vision turns out to command a surprising range and complexity. He classified his "People of the Twentieth Century" in distinct social groups, and never revealed the identities of the sitters who posed for him. But each person, far from merely illustrating a category, emerges with vividness from his supposedly level-headed scrutiny.

For example, take the Student Corps Member, a young man arrayed in a highly embellished uniform. He should be an elite embodiment of aspiring military magnificence, and yet his face is scarred with a series of horizontal slashes. Presumably caused by rapier cuts, they undermine his composure and expose the raw aggression lurking beneath his embroidered tunic.

When Sander photographed a pair of boxers, on the other hand, the outcome was surprisingly genial. Standing rigidly to attention like soldiers on parade, the two bruisers

ought to look menacing. But the shorter man grins as foolishly as a drunk, and the risible contrast between their shorts—one pulled up uncomfortably tight, the other hanging low and loose on puny thighs—pushes them towards absurdity.

Sander was also capable of photographing the same subject with joltingly different results. In 1914, a stout, balding father stood with his two shaven-headed sons as a personification of Widower, and the stoical sadness in all three of their haunted faces is immensely moving. By 1928, however, the same man reappears as Pastrycook. Even bulkier now, and shown white-coated in the kitchen, he glares at the camera with an almost frightening tectonic belligerence.

Fascinated by the multilayered richness of contemporary society, Sander studied his working-class sitters with even more eager interest than his wealthier subjects.

The farm worker was his prototype, after all, and throughout the exhibition he displays a consistent fellow-feeling for the most marginalised people he encounters. Tramps, itinerants and street entertainers are photographed with an instinctive sense of respect. A one-legged miner on crutches becomes the subject of an imposing full-length portrait; and a study of two dwarfs, crisply dressed in wing-collars and bow-ties, ranks among his most affectionate images. It betrays no desire to exploit them, and the unshaven, weary inmate of an Asylum is likewise presented with the utmost gravity.

In the end, though, his street scenes and landscapes compare poorly with the portraits. Sander is at his finest when he brings his formidable powers of scrutiny to bear on people. His forte lay in the steady gaze. By producing pictures as redoubtable as the Labourer, balancing a stack of bricks on his shoulders with practised ease, Sander defined the backbone of his nation. And the possibilities he opened up for an art rooted in tough yet humane social observation are still being explored by photographers today.

■ August Sander at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) until June 3

cial circus troupe dignified in his portfolios. *Face of the Age*, the first selection of his portraits to be published, was withdrawn and its stock destroyed in 1934. Worse was to follow. Erich, his theology student son, was denounced as a Communist and imprisoned for ten years. Sander photographed him, an anonymous Political Prisoner, reading in a rudimentary cell. An astonishingly objective picture, it conveys no hint of the fact that the inmate's father was behind the camera. But Sander's pride is implied in the decision to concentrate on his son's disciplined studiousness.

Sander needed all the stoicism he could muster during the war years. In 1944 Erich died of a suspiciously unknown illness just before his sentence expired. Soon afterwards the family apartment in Cologne was severely bombed, and the following year around 30,000 negatives were destroyed in a cellar fire.

Sander continued working with obstinate resolve, taking photographs of his city's rubble-heaped streets punctuated by oddly intact factory chimneys and the shells of medieval churches. At the National Portrait Gallery these elegiac images are juxtaposed with his prewar studies of Cologne. The contrast is distressing. In the 1930s the old waterfront architecture was still miraculously intact. Gabled warehouses provided an ideal foil for the twin-towered cathedral surging into the sky behind them. A decade later most of the city lay flattened, and Sander's New Year greetings card for 1948-49 showed the photographer and his camera silhouetted against the devastation.

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Backbone of the nation: the Labourer (1928) exemplifies August Sander's fascination with a multilayered society

EXCLUSIVE OFFER: THE TIMES

A FREE sampler CD



Readers of *The Times* are offered a FREE sampler CD featuring four tracks from *The English Patient*. The original soundtrack has been nominated for an Academy Award and recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score.

The four tracks on the sampler are *The English Patient*, *Rupert Bear*, *Convento Di San' Anna* and *As Far as Florence*.

Gabriel Yared composed the film's score, performed here by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and featuring pianist John Constable, vocalist Márta Sebestyén and conductor Harry Rabinowitz.

The compilation CD is interspersed with extracts from the MacMillan audio book of *The English Patient*, which was abridged by Michael Ondreja himself. The extracts are read by Ralph Fiennes.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD
Collect four of the six free CD tokens appearing in *The Times* this week. Send them, together with a 50p stamp and the application form which will appear on Thursday March 6, 1997.

THE TIMES
THE ENGLISH PATIENT
FREE CD
TOKEN 2

CHANGING TIMES

His and hers in pottery

Isabel Carlisle admires the quiet grandeur of the work of Lucy Rie and Hans Coper at the Barbican



Lucie Rie at her wheel in Albion Mews in the mid-1940s

Lucie Rie and Hans Coper were among the generation of Jews who, in fleeing the Holocaust and coming to live here in the 1930s, enriched British life in all its dimensions in the post-war period. Emigrés to this country from Austria and Germany respectively, they initially worked together and then separately as studio potters. In bringing with them the ideas of the international modern movement in art and its elegant simplicity of shapes, they opened up ideas about form and function which took pottery out of the craft bracket and on to a new plane.

In the exhibition space of the Barbican's Wiener Werkstätte architecture of Josef Hoffmann (who taught Rie in Vienna) and of Adolf Loos is splendidly evoked by architect John Pawson's single long display case of white painted wood and glass. Its unbroken horizontal lines on the outside and low, relatively compressed white inside spaces bring out the vertical elements in the pots and consequently the dignity and quiet grandeur that characterise Rie's and Coper's work.

The two artists first met in 1946 when Coper, desperate for a job, came to make ceramic buttons in Rie's workshop in Albion Mews, near Hyde Park. With the end of the war, they collaborated on plates, jugs and cups that were sold in Liberty's and Heals. Those early lemonade sets, coffee sets and breakfast sets, with jug handles reduced to a single straight arm, seem to have grounded Rie and Coper's work in function, so that when after 1958 the two went their separate ways (while still maintaining a close friendship), none of the experimentation went so far as to deny each pot a practical use. Even Coper, whose later ex-

periments with thistle, spade and disc vases, as well as flanged geometric heads reminiscent of Picasso's Cubist works, pushed pottery towards sculpture, insisted that "art and sculpture should

vessels of the Cycladic civilisation of around 2500 BC, from which Greek sculpture and pottery derived. Coper, like Brancusi and Henry Moore, was influenced by Cycladic art, and something of the mystery of its purpose resurfaces again in his work. Rie, too, who as a child was impressed by the Roman pots in her uncle's collection, makes use of the ability of pottery to evoke lost cultures.

Coper's shouldered bottle with a flat circular lip of 1972, swelling to a round base,

AROUND THE GALLERIES

WHAT began as a golden jubilee exhibition for William Gear, celebrating 50 years' work 1947-1997, has with the artist's passing last week become a memorial instead. In 1947 Gear was already 32, but that is when his public career started. The war had been a big interruption. Before it Gear had studied in Edinburgh and in Paris with Leger, and when he was finally demobbed he returned to Paris and became, rarely for a British artist, an important figure in the otherwise exclusively continental CoBrA group, then largely domiciled in Paris. Hence virtually from the beginning he has been involved with the kind of Abstract Expressionism pursued by CoBrA.

It would be too simple to say that Rie's work appears essentially feminine and Coper's masculine, but there is an element of truth there. Coper was more interested in form, taking shape and size to its limits while continuing to work in stoneware and contrasting white and manganese brown slips. His pots are heavier and more solid than Rie's thin-walled porcelain vases and bowls.

Rie's experiments were in surface appearance. Her colours and glazes were carefully married to the clay fabric of the pot to provoke chemical reactions that determined the surface texture. In some cases metallic pigments added to Rie's glazes to give them the sheen of precious metal. An open bowl made in 1967 from porcelain with a uranium yellow glaze has a banded colour interior that is golden at the bottom, then a bronze oxide green and then towards the lip a pale purplish pink. The lip itself has darkish bronze drips on either side while the indistinct edges of the bands of colour look like the hazy vapour rings around a planet. Too precious to use, Rie's pots in particular look both very much of their time, and very much older.

■ Lucy Rie and Hans Coper Potters in Parallel is at the Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London EC2J 0DZ (0171-638 8891) until May 26

can brandish a strong primary colour in one's face with the best of them, but about half the paintings here are in muted shades of grey and dull purple and slate blue. Often they are, or appear to be, completely abstract. But even then shapes tend to surface which closely mirror the recesses of a woman's body. The results are paradoxically both severe and titillating.

Hart Gallery, 113 Upper Street, Islington, N1 (0171-704 1131), Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, until March 27.

■ JUST when you thought it was safe to tidy Alfred Wallis away as a primitive, by chance oddly influential on the course of 20th-century British art because discovered at the right time by Ben Nicholson and Christopher Wood, here comes a new view to upset complacency. Mel Gooding is proposing that Wallis was a much more conscious and disciplined artist than we have supposed.

The current show at the Kapil Jariwala Gallery is put together on this principle, and it is undoubtedly a tonic to be required to look again at these small pictures of sailing boats ascending mountainous seas, of buildings on top of towering hills, and occasionally of simple suburban life on land. There is no denying the haunting quality of his tiny works, each a self-sufficient part of an extraordinarily self-sufficient private world.

Kapil Jariwala Gallery, 4 New Burlington Street, W1 (0171-437 2172), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until March 30.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

A talent to abuse

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JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



CHOICE 1

FASCINATING AIDA transfers its mordant show across town

VENUE: At the Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue



CHOICE 2

SATIRIST SUPREME: the best of Hogarth goes on show in his tercentenary year

VENUE: Exhibition from today, Tate Gallery



OPERA

Britten's three church parables are presented together, if not in the right order



MUSIC

The Vienna Philharmonic excels in Bruckner under the direction of Daniel Barenboim

LONDON

FASCINATING AIDA Bred transfer for the three-act singing of showbiz, impossible men and middle age. Thrilling performances only. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5073). Opens tonight. Then Mon-Sat. 8pm. Until Sat 20th March 15.

HOGARTH THE PAINTER The Tate Gallery celebrates the 300th anniversary of the birth of William Hogarth, the doyen of English painting. Works by the painter, including an oil masterpiece, *A Scene from Dr. Faustus: The Conquest of Mexico*, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000). Open today, 10am-6pm. Until June 8.

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF REASON The English Chamber Orchestra, the orchestra for Sam-Sam's *Castello Concerto No 1*, in a programme that includes music by Beethoven and Faure. The conductor is Paavo Järvi. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-923 8044). For the 7-8pm

ROMANCE Musical double-bill by Barry Humphries and Bertie Higgins, derived from a 50-year-old love in *Love in Vain* coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven DeRosa. Transfer from a sell-out run at the Bridge Theatre, Shakespear Avenue, W1.

JO HEDWICH Parted by the critics, loved by the fans, *JO Hedwigh* returns to London after a year's absence with a new Helen Reddy play. Directed by Tim Rice and directed by Frank Dunlop. Labatts Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6055). Mon-Sat 8pm. Until Sat 8.

LOVE IN THE DARK Never before seen in London, the 1941 musical by Leo Robin, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. A larger-than-life Marlene Dietrich plays her psychopathic all to tell of her dreams about three men. All songs based on the Irving Berlin, M. G. Lewis, and the like. Directed by John Doman. Directed by Francesco Zampella, best known for his work in *Cooper's Lyell*. South Bank, SE1 (0171-929 2262). Now previewing 7.30pm, mat 8pm. 21st April.

LIVE & KIDDING Marlene Dietrich presents a new show for a five-week season of cabaret, burlesque, and many another ology. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5018). Previewers' "Love" and "Kiddies", 8pm. Opens March 6. 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Sat April 5.

THE MESSAGE Volcano Theatre. Nigel Charnock and Tony Hayton join forces to explore the role of the messenger and witness through the

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

(0171-494 5065). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. mat. Thurs and Sat, 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

ABERDEEN Scottish Opera presents a new production of *Shakespeare's Falstaff*, directed by Giles Havergal tonight. Thursday and Saturday. Tomorrows and Friday, the 15th and 16th, performances end at 8pm. *London's Falstaff*, a classic love story, La bohème. His Majesty's, Richmond, Surrey (0181-641 1216). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm.

COVENTRY Oxford Stage Company presents Charlotte Haze's finely observed drama, *My Mother Said I Never Could Fly*, in a production that looks at the lives of four women in one family to reveal the secrets and myths handed down from one generation to the next. New Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (01926 824200). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm. Mat 8pm.

MANCHESTER Opera North begins a week's residency with a new production of *Venice* (Felicity Lattimore).

production of *Wise Children* (Gillian Maxey).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats unsuitable

■ Seats at all prices

production of *Wise Children* (Felicity Lattimore), with Jane Bunnett, Richard McCabe and good performances from the line-up. Price £25.00. E22 (0161-438 6851). Tonight, 7.15pm. In rep.

WINDSOR *WIND IN THE VENGEANCE* (HMT) His Royal Highness Prince Philip, with Marlene Jones and Eileen Pollock as women devoted to the dapper D. O. M. and the young Peter. Price £25.00. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (0171-927 2955). Preview, 7pm. Tonight (0171-927 2955). Preview, 7pm. Tonight (0171-229 3477). Whitsun Chapel, Tony Cragg (0171-922 7881).

and Finlay, with Andrew Shore in the title role. *Puccini's tragic love story, Madama Butterfly*, with Chen Sui, is given tomorrow and Saturday, and Josephine Barstow sings the role of Elizabeth I in Britten's *Glory (Friday)*. Palace, Oxford Street (0171-942 2503). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm.

WONING The dancer and choreographer Linda Wright begins her 10th anniversary with a performance tour of the year's Dance Umbrella. An innovative outdoor set includes the premiere of a multi-media collaboration, *ACTUAL/FACTUAL*, and the improved dance event, *Storm/Order*. Peacock Theatre, London (0171-611 1141). Tonight, 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Cardiff Contemporary Cardiff, Butterfield (0171-581 5451). *Carlo* Sam Holt (0171-435 6990).

London *Paintings* (0171-347 8747). Dowes Street, Kate Malone (0171-409 1540).

Dulwich Picture Gallery *Art* (0171-915 5254). Festival Hall (0171-915 5254).

Hayes *Curlew River* (0171-960 4242).

London *George David Lovett: Signs in the Sky* (0171-438 7319).

London *Paintings* (0171-229 2955).

London *Tony Evans* (0171-229 3477).

London *Whitsun Chapel*, Tony Cragg (0171-922 7881).

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LAW

● AIDS LITIGATION 41
● LAW REPORT 23

Gwynn Davis and Hilary Woodward on the price of breaking up



A split hurts — as in *The Divorce of Madame X* starring Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier — even before the fees

Divorce's high cost

Access to justice is one mark of a civilised society. It can, however, be undermined in various ways — openly, through legislation, or by the back door through statutory instrument. The latter allowed the recent dramatic rise in court fees introduced by the Government over the Christmas recess. The increases affect the whole of the civil justice system, but are most striking in relation to divorce.

With effect from January 15 virtually every court fee in the divorce field has been increased by at least 50 per cent, and some have doubled or trebled. The fee for filing a divorce petition has increased from £80 to £150 — and this only 14 months after it was increased from £40.

Anyone with a disposable income of £75 a week or more will have to pay £150 to petition for divorce, plus a further £20 to secure a decree. They may apply for a discretionary reduction on hardship grounds, but this will require a further payment of £20. An identical application in other civil proceedings costs £10. It seems that the divorcing population has been singled out for special treatment.

New fees have been introduced into every step in the divorce process involving the court. Even consent applications attract a fee. Exemptions previously available have for the most part been abolished.

Audience agreement

THE last-minute agreement which suddenly emerged from the Lord Chancellor and four most senior judges over rights of audience for employed lawyers was a late compromise cobbled together after weeks of failed attempts to square the circle between the judges.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern had the backing of both Lord Bingham of Cornhill and Lord Woolf. But Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, and Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, had serious concerns about the Crown Prosecution Service lawyers being granted rights at Crown Court. Until a few days ago, there was an impasse.

None of the judges wished to have a public disagreement, so it was a matter of finding a formula to which they could all sign up. Prospects looked remote until, suddenly, early last week, officials found the "lowest

Income Support claimants now pay £40 towards the court fees for divorce. (One claimant is seeking a judicial review to have the 1996 fees order declared unlawful.)

The fee increases have been introduced with minimal consultation. It is barely six months since the Legal Aid White Paper was published, and there was no suggestion then that such increases were on the way. The statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on December 19. No press notice was issued. It was virtually a covert operation, which may have devastating effects.

The lack of parliamentary time available to debate the fees issue is of course significant only if there is an effective Opposition committed to the principle of equality before the law. Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, attacked the Government over the fee increases but, under pressure from Alex Carlile of the Liberal-Democrats, confessed that Labour would not overturn them.

The official reason for the increase is that the "cost recovery target" for the civil justice system has been increased to 100 per cent for 1997-98. So court fees are expected to cover virtually the entire cost of civil justice.

Sir Richard Scott, head of the civil justice system, denounced the increases as "thoroughly objectionable...

judges are part of the constitutional framework of the State and I don't see any justification for their salaries being paid for in this way".

In the divorce context, the new fees cannot remotely be justified in terms of the workload imposed on the court. Yet £150 is payable to cover a few simple administrative and checking procedures.

There are several other aspects of divorce and other civil litigation that are far more costly in judicial time. The suspicion arises that fees have been increased as a deterrent to divorce. If so, it is a mistaken objective.

Divorce as a legal process is a consequence of relationship breakdown, not its cause. In most cases, the divorce petitioner will have already suffered the social, emotional and economic costs of separation.

The divorcing population includes many vulnerable people. Without divorce, they are unable to secure the remedies they need: accommodation, security for their children and freedom from violence. People who cannot afford legal help can end up in a mess.

The 1996 Family Law Act aimed to make those contemplating divorce think again. This figured prominently in the debate about the legislation. In fact, it has always

been implausible to suppose that tinkering with divorce law has a significant impact on well-established social behaviour. Making divorce harder does not save marriages. The numbers petitioning for divorce may decline, but many will either separate without legal ceremony, or not marry in the first place.

Nonetheless, the appearance of a declining divorce rate would be a prize greatly valued if this could be presented as the product of a Family Law Act (which encountered fierce opposition from the "moral Right"). Now we have the brutal simplicity of a fee rise, which may achieve the Family Law Act's aspirations through economic force.

And where will this all end?

If the aim is full-cost recovery, why not profit? Why not make each court an autonomous cost centre? Some litigants could not afford the fees, but corporations and wealthy individuals could permit some entrepreneur to make a success of the justice business. Divorce would revert to being the preserve of the wealthy. And poor people would conduct their lives as best they could, without troubling the judiciary or the Exchequer.

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Latest battle in the whisky war

Neil Addison on how liquor litigation has caused strife through the centuries

What is whisky? This delicate issue will soon be decided by judges in the High Court in an action in which the Scotch whisky industry is suing a distillery on the Isle of Man.

The industry claims the Manx liquor is not real because it is colourless, an effect achieved by redistilling it when it has been matured. This procedure, say the Scots, stops it being real whisky.

The water of life and the law have intermingled for centuries. Whether Scotland or Ireland first invented whisky is a never-ending argument.

But fundamental differences between Irish whisky and Scotch whisky today arise from English laws. The former English Malt Tax applied in Ireland, but not in Scotland. So to avoid the tax, Irish distillers began to mix unmalted barley in their pot stills and this mix needed three distillations.

Today, Irish whisky is still triple distilled and mixes malted and unmalted barley. Scotch is double distilled and uses only malt — two distinct traditions which arose simply out of tax avoidance.

In Scotland, the imposition of the Malt Tax in 1713 led to the first Jacobite rising in 1715 and a nationwide illegal distilling industry. Legal Scotch distilling began after new legislation in 1823 and Scotch soon began to be sold in England.

The sale of blended Scotch whisky today is a major Scottish industry, but it was nearly stopped by an English magistrate's court. In 1905 English magistrates declared that Scottish blended whisky was not whisky at all.

The Scots had found that straight malt whisky was too powerful for the sensitive English palate and began to blend malt whisky with lighter, mechanically distilled grain whisky — blends declared by the court to be not true whisky.

Indignant, Scottish distillers pressed for a royal commission. This concluded in 1908 that blended whisky which was properly matured was whisky.

The Malt Tax led to the first Jacobite rising in 1715'

Across the Atlantic the first test of the power of the US President arose in the "Whisky Rebellion" of 1794, which began because of the Federal Whisky Tax.

There were doubts as to whether state militia could be legally used to enforce federal law but President Washington successfully did so to end the rebellion.

The Canadian Mounties also owe their origins to whisky. In 1874 "whiskey-sodden American brigands", as they were described, were busy selling a poisonous brand of whiskey to Indians from armed bases such as "Fort Whoop Up" in Alberta.

It was the increasing lawlessness arising from this trade which led the Canadian Government to create the Mounted Police who quickly sent the whisky traders back to America.

Having got rid of American whiskey, the Canadians set up their own distilleries and provided much of the illegal whiskey drunk in America during Prohibition. Because Canadians use rye rather than barley,

they lighten the flavour with neutral grain spirit. American distillers argued that this mixture was not true whiskey and in 1906 had 6,000 cases of Canadian whiskey seized by the US authorities.

A presidential commission eventually arrived at a similar verdict to the UK royal commission and Canadian whisky achieved international acceptability.

Today, whisky is a multimillion pound international industry with many new countries entering the market. All of them share the problem of staying true to the legal definition of "whisky" while projecting a unique identity in an overcrowded market.

Meanwhile, Japan, with its large domestic whisky industry, is coming under increasing pressure from the British, American, Canadian and Irish Governments to open up its markets.

The issue is likely to be referred to the World Trade Organisation. So whisky should continue to live the pockets as well as warm the hearts of the world's lawyers.

Romance turned to tragedy when Janette Pink met the man of her dreams in Cyprus. Frances Gibb reports

Janette Pink has just a short time to live. Her death from Aids will be a tragic end to a Shirley Valentine-style holiday romance, which began three years ago on the island of Cyprus.

She went there to begin a new life after the end of her 20-year marriage to a wealthy City accountant. Three months after her arrival, she befriended a Greek-Cypriot fisherman, Pavlos Georgiou. He confided that his wife was dying of cancer and Janette fell in love, unaware that her lover was concealing a deadly secret: he was HIV positive.

Their relationship continued for 18 months, during which time Mr Georgiou knowingly infected Ms Pink with the virus as he had already done with his wife and youngest son. She ignored the warnings of friends until they persuaded her to take blood tests.

The second proved positive. She has now returned to Basildon in Essex to die.

Since her story was first revealed, there have been newspaper reports that Mr Georgiou may have infected many other women — not only in Cyprus, but also in London where he worked as a self-employed builder, living with his wife and children in Enfield, north London, between 1979 and 1999.

In the last few months, Ms Pink — whose story is told tonight on BBC1's *Inside Story: A Deadly Secret* — has campaigned to bring Mr Georgiou to justice. But the law has proved unable to help. Sir Teddy Taylor, her sister Sharon's MP, has sought to introduce a Private Members' Bill to make it illegal for someone knowingly to pass on HIV, but with no success.

That was the latest attempt to reform a difficult area of law which the Government has so far resisted. In 1992, Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, ruled out creating a criminal offence of knowingly transmitting HIV, arguing there were difficulties of both principle and practice.

"I am not persuaded," he said, "that these difficulties have been overcome in other jurisdictions."

His decision followed a review of the law that year, set up when it was discovered that a Birmingham man with Aids had allegedly infected several women. Mr Clarke echoed the views of lawyers such as John Spencer, Reader of Law at Cambridge University, who has argued that the criminal law already covered such behaviour, and that civil claims for damages might also be possible, so new laws were not needed.

Around the world, the law has moved more quickly. Several Australian states have a specific offence which covers deliberate transmission of the virus. In Western Australia, those who knowingly infect others face fines of up to £8,000.

In America the courts have held that the existing law on assault, in particular assault with a deadly weapon, can be held to cover deliberate transmission of HIV.

Some American states outlaw sexual intercourse for people who know they have sexually transmissible diseases and Colorado and Indiana allow health officials to place restrictions on people with HIV who expose others to risk.

In Britain, in theory, charges of murder or manslaughter could be considered. But the prosecution faces the problem of proving the necessary *mens rea*: that the accused intended to cause the death of the victim.

Lesser offences could be considered. There was a landmark ruling in 1888 called *Clarence*, in which a husband infected his wife with



So in love: Janette Pink with the Greek-Cypriot fisherman Pavlos Georgiou in the Torodos Mountains of Cyprus

HIV victim seeks justice against her lethal lover

Pink's chances of pursuing her ex-lover remain slim. Under the Cypriot penal code, Article 190 makes it an offence knowingly to spread a disease. But the Attorney-General there has declined to prosecute Mr Georgiou because of the difficulty in proving that he had the necessary intent to kill, beyond reasonable doubt and secondly that she did not know that her lover was infected.

Even the civil law would be difficult to use in such cases. "Casual sex carries a risk of sexually transmitted disease," he adds. "You can argue that if you know you have Aids, you owe a greater duty of care to people with whom you have intercourse. But in turn you can argue that they also bear some responsibility. So a claim might be difficult and perhaps not desirable. The law is too blunt an instrument to deal with something as tangled as people's emotional and sexual nature."

bears some responsibility for what happens".

Mark Stephens, a solicitor with Stephens Innocent, who has experience of Aids clients, agrees. "If you criminalise people with Aids," he says, "you drive it underground and more people within the community are at risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases."

Even the civil law would be difficult to use in such cases. "Casual sex carries a risk of sexually transmitted disease," he adds. "You can argue that if you know you have Aids, you owe a greater duty of care to people with whom you have intercourse. But in turn you can argue that they also bear some responsibility. So a claim might be difficult and perhaps not desirable. The law is too blunt an instrument to deal with something as tangled as people's emotional and sexual nature."

• *Inside Story, BBC1, tonight, 10.25.*

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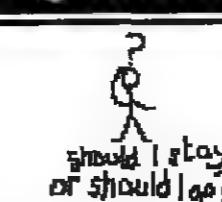
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LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

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The guilty, the brazen and the unscrupulous

It's amazing how a few good names attached to a drama can soothe one's anxieties about it. Watching the credits for last night's returning first episode of *Kavanagh QC* (ITV) — writer Charles Wood, director Jack Gold — was like being diagram of a ticky-thrill in a *Venom* commercial, subdued and pacified by the thick, goey reassurance of *Proven Quality*. The casting served the same doubt-assuaging purpose — John Wood as a forgetful judge; Richard Pasco as a disillusioned vicar; Angela Lansbury and Barrie Rutter in minor parts. All fans of the previous series thinking "Where's Anna Chancellor?" could soon banish all thoughts of that lovely amazon in her little wig. As for John Thaw, with his silvery locks and northern vowels — well, let's say both are growing on him.

The interesting plot concerned Edgar, a military padre (Andrew Woodall), pleading guilty to his

brother's murder, in a wood, with a rifle. But it was clear from all the ghastly flashbacks that agonised him — featuring a pit of massacred bodies in Bosnia — that he merely sought punishment for a bigger sense of guilt. Edgar had become mute after the shooting; he was now reading Pat Barker's novels about First World War psychological trauma. Hired to defend him, Kavanagh frowned in puzzlement and displayed that snowy hair to great effect, but was not required to attempt death-defying leaps of logic to save the day. Instead, the defence was rescued by the discovery of an unequivocal suicide note from the brother. Hoorah.

The two interesting aspects to this story were the novelty of the non-speaking defendant and the literary clue of the novel *Regeneration* — which was shown in close-up, three times, in case we missed it. Woodall waded a wide array of different faces during his interro-

gations, but cleverly maintained a lot of dignity throughout. As for the Pat Barker book, I think its presence was mainly Charles Wood acknowledging the source of his inspiration, while perhaps encouraging the ITV audience to read better books. It was not really a clue, or anything. And thank goodness, only Edgar read it, anyway. The traumatised mute in *Regeneration* is strapped to a chair and tortured with electrodes.

Conscience was the theme of the night. Edgar had a very uneasy conscience, you see. On the other hand, Gary Sparrow in the new series of *Goodnight Sweetheart* was noticeably unstung by finer feelings (as usual), while *World in Action* (ITV) brought exceptionally bad news about the state of the country's honesty. Called "Many Behaving Badly", it conducted a number of entrapment experiments with free

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

stamped, addressed envelope was dropped on the ground with a £5 note protruding, and one person who picked it up even tore off the stamp before throwing the envelope away. It was one of those programmes you have to watch with a bottle of whisky in one hand and a pearl-handled revolver in the other, waiting for the right moment to shoot yourself.

But it was excellent entertainment, and kept bringing to mind those chimp-and-grape experiments we used to see in the old days on *Desmond Morris's Zoo Time*. Once a man with no conscience discovers he can get free £10 notes from a cash machine, he lurks around it all day, trying his luck. If he were Bobo with a grape-feeder ("There he goes again!"), we would applaud him. What *World in Action* discovered was that people are happier to steal from big anonymous banks than from small, friendly

shopkeepers. Meagre though it is, this was the only good news.

Finally, the return of BBC1's

Goodnight Sweetheart without either of the two original female leads was a bit of a blow, especially for somebody who secretly thought Nicholas Lyndhurst was the weak link. Perhaps this was prejudice, however. First, I have never understood how we were supposed to sympathise with a wartime lothario who looked like Hitler. And as for the smug, self-satisfied, and loved by a submissive, pretty woman with a handsome cleavage. How he manages to look so sour in these circumstances is the biggest mystery of all.

The clever thing about *Goodnight Sweetheart* is the absence of dramatic tension, which means it can go on for ever. Will the heinous Gary one day be found out? The answer is surely no. For one thing, the two female characters simply could not stand the strain of discovery, and besides, this is not a moral tale about deceit and its consequences. So Yvonne and Phoebe will remain in the dark — a place where, conveniently, women are said to be all alike in any case.

BBC1	
6.00am <i>Business Breakfast</i> (33891) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (45459) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (54707)	
9.20 <i>Style Challenge</i> (478447) 9.45 <i>Kilroy</i> (4474836)	
10.30 <i>Can't Cook, Won't Cook</i> (78739) 11.00 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (5690433) 11.05 <i>The Really Useful Show</i> (702162) 11.35 <i>Change That</i> (6867094)	
12.00 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (7544162) 12.05pm <i>The Alphabet Game</i> (5585365) 12.30 <i>Going for a Song</i> (5655433) 12.55 <i>The Weather Show</i> (7992629)	
1.00 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (48836) 1.30 <i>Regional news and weather</i> (53666742) 1.40 <i>Neighbours (T)</i> (1190549) 2.05 <i>Snowy River: The McGregor Saga</i> (5332549) 2.50 <i>As Time Goes By</i> Comedy with Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer (T) (T) (5219100) 3.20 <i>Noble Castle Roy Noble visits Harlech Castle</i> (6555079) 3.30 <i>Playdays (T)</i> (542278) 3.50 <i>Casper Classics (N)</i> (6817907) 3.55 <i>Hubble</i> (8320988) 4.10 <i>Prince of Alaric (T)</i> (1451588) 4.35 <i>The Mask (T)</i> (5499655) 5.00 <i>Newround (T)</i> (389758) 5.10 <i>Grange Hill (T)</i> (4618158) 5.35 <i>Neighbours (T)</i> (221365) 6.00 <i>Star O'Clock News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (471) 6.30 <i>Newsworld South East</i> (723) 7.00 <i>Holiday Jill</i> Dando visits Gran Canaria, Oz Clarke checks out San Diego and Monty Don reports from Algarve on Spain's Costa Brava. Plus, Sankha Guha visits Dublin and stays in the hotel owned by rock band U2 and John Holdsworth samples a weekend break in Herefordshire (T) (8742) 7.30 <i>EastEnders</i> Peggy continues to make it difficult for Lorraine and Nigel is the bearer of bad tidings for Pauline (T) (807) 8.00 <i>Sportnight</i> Special Desmond Lyman introduces live coverage from St James' Park of Newcastle's Uefa Cup quarter-final, first-leg game against the current French first division leaders, Monaco. The commentators are John Motson and David Pleat with analysis from Trevor Brooking and Alan Hansen (23376617) 9.55 <i>News (T)</i> , <i>regional news and weather</i> (418891) 10.25 <i>Inside Story: A Deadly Secret</i> (85952) <i>Secret</i> The tragic night of a woman whose boyfriend, knowingly infected her with HIV (151452) WALES: <i>PPB (Fled Cymru)</i> 10.30 <i>Week in Week Out</i> 11.00 <i>Inside Story</i> 11.30 <i>FLM: Juggernaut</i> 1.35pm <i>One Film: The She Creature</i> 11.20 <i>Juggernaut</i> (1974) with Richard Harris, Anthony Hopkins, Ian Holm, Orson Sharif and David Hemmings. A transatlantic liner and its 1,200 passengers are threatened by a ruthless bomber. Directed by Richard Lester (309988) 1.00am <i>The She Creature</i> (1954) (b/w) A chillier about a hypnotist who summons a murderous prehistoric monster from its hiding place. With Chester Morris, directed by Edward L. Cahn (2413143) 2.15 <i>Weather</i> (6523124)	

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BBC2	
6.00am <i>Open University</i> (7473094) 6.25 English, Whose English? (7656209) 9.00 Language and Literature (939758) 7.15 <i>New (T)</i> 7.30 <i>Captain Caveman</i> 8.20 <i>Peter (T)</i> (T) (3523068) 8.20 <i>Johnson and Friends</i> (791742) 8.35 <i>The Record (T)</i> (5113549) 9.00 <i>Standard Grade Modern Studies</i> (5445638) 9.20 <i>The History Collection</i> (4792013) 9.45 <i>Watch (T)</i> (238907) 10.00 <i>Paydays (T)</i> (60158) 10.30 <i>Come Outside</i> (2558101) 11.05 <i>Space Art</i> (611926) 11.15 <i>Le Poer (T)</i> (34747) 11.30 <i>Shakespeare (T)</i> (4384) 12.00 <i>See Hear (T)</i> (74833) 12.30pm <i>Working Lunch</i> (52425) 1.30 <i>Showcase (T)</i> (210) 1.45 <i>100% Live</i> (48278) 1.50 <i>Everyone's Got One (T)</i> (246013) 1.55 <i>News (T)</i> (3085) 2.00 <i>Johnson and Friends</i> (5626520) 2.10 <i>Everyone's Got One (T)</i> (21083) 2.15 <i>Ready, Steady, Cook (T)</i> (520) 2.50 <i>Esther (T)</i> (520) 3.30 <i>Seniors Pot Black</i> Ray Reardon v Willie Thorne (100)	
6.00 <i>The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (T)</i> 6.25 <i>Heartbreak High</i> (24126) 7.10 <i>The Zone (T)</i> (42742) 7.25 <i>Delta's Red Nose Collection (T)</i> (28769) 7.30 <i>From the Edge</i> Disabled mothers with disabled daughters celebrate their relationship (549)	
7.30pm <i>Before Columbus</i> BBC2, 9.00pm	
Every schoolchild knows, or ought to, that Columbus did not discover America but around those who went before him there are still huge grey areas. One of the more intriguing legends is that a Welsh prince called Madoc sailed to America in 1700, more than 300 years before Columbus, and has an Indian tribe descended from him. The story is that Madoc and his followers settled with the Mandans of North Dakota. The evidence has always been scanty but this has not deterred a pair of amateur historians from Swanses, Tony and Cath Williams. The film follows their journey to the United States and a reciprocal trip to Anglesey by a current member of the Mandan tribe, Harry Sizing Bear. Do not expect a television film to upstage centuries of research, but it does offer some fascinating pointers.	
Timewatch: Before Columbus	



Juliette as detective (8pm)

The House Detectives	
8.00am <i>GMTV</i> (6841810)	
8.25 <i>Chain Letters</i> (4779162)	
8.55 <i>Regional News (T)</i> (5578548)	
10.00 <i>The Time, the Place</i> (27665)	
10.30 <i>Third Morning (T)</i> (20624616)	
12.20pm <i>HTV News and Weather</i> (7559094)	
12.30 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (6953029)	
12.54 <i>HTV Crimewatch</i> (7912094) 12.55 <i>Shortland Street</i> (6858201) 1.25 <i>Afternoon Live and Away (T)</i> (4779088) 1.50 <i>Afternoon Live (T)</i> (1998181) 2.20 <i>Vanessa (T)</i> (5057983) 2.50 <i>Afternoon Live (T)</i> (5211568)	
3.20 <i>News (T)</i> (2955015)	
3.25 <i>Regional News (T)</i> (3305556)	
3.30 <i>Potamus Island (T)</i> (1115635) 3.40 <i>Wizards (T)</i> (961278) 3.50 <i>Boobie's Bucket (T)</i> (6903162) 4.00 <i>Scooby Doo (T)</i> (2728907) 4.15 <i>Hey Arnold! (1445907)</i> 4.40 <i>Fighters (T)</i> (4381742)	
5.10 <i>Getaway (T)</i> (7) (5628723)	
5.40 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (497471)	
6.00 <i>Home and Away (T)</i> (T) (455278)	
6.25 <i>HTV Weather (T)</i> (794704)	
6.30 <i>HTV News (T)</i> (704181)	
7.00 <i>Emmerdale</i> Robert and Andy's grim discovery in the quarry has far-reaching consequences (T) (3810)	
7.30 <i>The Learning Curve</i> The first of six-part series focussing on West County school and colleges (425)	
8.00 <i>The Bill</i> Greg is puzzled when a man confesses to a burglary he could not have committed (T) (2758)	
8.30 <i>Pet Power</i> In the last programme of the series, Antesha Turner meets a border collie who saved his family from a fire and a canine customs officer, and checks on the progress of Pepeye, the woman-hating parrot (T) (3835)	
9.00 <i>Peak Practice</i> Andrew and Erica struggle to find the real cause of a child's constant medical problems — perhaps his mother's lonely cry for help is a clue? (T) (4891)	
10.00 <i>News (T)</i> and <i>weather</i> (74988)	

10.30 *Regional News (T)* (976013)

CHOICE	
6.00am <i>GMTV</i> (6841810)	
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8.55 <i>Regional News (T)</i> (5578548)	
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10.30 <i>Third Morning (T)</i> (20624616)	
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MOTOR RACING 46

Stewart adding
polish to his
uncut diamond

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 4 1997

GOLF 50

Why Faldo finds
the Riviera
to his liking



Newcastle's resources stretched

Dalglish must strike the right balance

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE United will have to forget all about being Magpies and summon the pride of wounded lions if they are to give English football the impetus to get through this week, the first in 12 seasons in which it has had a team in the quarter-finals of each of the three European competitions.

At St James' Park, in the Uefa Cup, Newcastle face AS Monaco, a team buoyant and top of the French League, and full of resolve and confidence after beating German opposition, Borussia Mönchengladbach and SV Hamburg, in the away legs of the two previous rounds. Newcastle must knock that confidence out of them without Alan Shearer, who is injured, without Faustino Asprilla, who is unlikely suspended, and very likely without Les Ferdinand, whose damaged hamstring is not responding in treatment.

So Kenny Dalglish, the manager, on his 46th birthday, is without a complete forward line that cost £28.5 million. It was not his fault that Darren Huckerby was sent to Coventry before Dalglish took over on January 14 and the consequences may not be his responsibility if he has to ask Steve Watson, a defender, to throw his weight and willingness about up front, with Peter Beardsley as a guide.

Of course, the style and approach on Tyneside has changed. Instead of being cavalier, they are cagey: instead of Kevin Keegan, there is Dalglish.

So, inevitably, one does not know what he intends. He could confound the French with a French maverick of his own and call David Ginola, giving the winger the role of centre forward and match-winner. Jean Tigana, a magnificent France international in his time and now a quality

coach, was a willing provocateur yesterday. It is "irrelevant", he shrugged, whether Ginola takes the field or not: the only thing Monaco fear is the dead ball, the free kicks and corners that are English attributes and French weaknesses.

However, it is a Scot who holds the key, and Dalglish has never been one for letting his players know what is on his mind, let alone the public or the opposition. Thus, last night, Ginola was a confused individual. "If the manager doesn't want to put me in the team, then maybe I have to say goodbye, though I stress maybe," he said. "If I don't play, it will be a real shame for me because I want to be involved. I never came to

Fans seek cash penalty ... 3
Bobby Robson 48
Sunderland's struggle ... 48

Newcastle to be a substitute. I don't want to put pressure on the manager. I don't want to think too hurriedly about my future, and I wouldn't mind playing centre forward if I could help the team that way."

He sounds, does he not, somewhat desperate? His manager, enigmatic as ever, gives nothing away. "My feelings for David Ginola are exactly the same as they were before Saturday's match," Dalglish said of the player he used as a second-half substitute in the defeat against Southampton. "He is obviously a very talented player. Everyone knows that he did OK when he came on. Sometimes you're forced by circumstances to gamble, and if I'm in that situation, I will."

The implication is that Dalglish may gamble with the flesh rather than the spirit, that he will wait to the North-East club. There is significance for English football in the game, but greater significance for Newcastle's faltering ambitions and for the great share issue that is imminent on Tyneside. For Dalglish, the first important test of his ability to outwit the opposition and to invent out of adversity is at hand.

Just how the Newcastle back four, even with their relentless rehearsals at playing the offside game, will cope with his wiles, could, whoever Newcastle field in attack, hold the key to the future of the North-East club.

There is significance for English football in the game, but greater significance for Newcastle's faltering ambitions and for the great share issue that is imminent on Tyneside. For Dalglish, the first important test of his ability to outwit the opposition and to invent out of adversity is at hand.

After his first win of the season in the world championship in three



Their was an unlikely victory and

Colin McRae, right, and Nicky Grist knew it as they revelled in the flag-waving celebrations that followed their win in the Safari Rally in Nairobi. Despite a high-speed crash on the second day, suffered as McRae swerved to avoid rocks laid by vandals in the path of their Subaru, and a series of electrical problems that dogged their progress on the third and final day, the Britons — McRae from Scotland and Grist from Wales — finished more than seven minutes ahead of the field.

After his first win of the season in the world championship in three

attempts, McRae was delighted. "Nobody would have put me down to be the winner, but we have taken it sensibly and reaped the rewards," he said. "Driving here is like nothing in Europe. There, you go flat out at 100 per cent all the time. Here, it is about going at a speed that isn't going to break the car. It's a tough one."

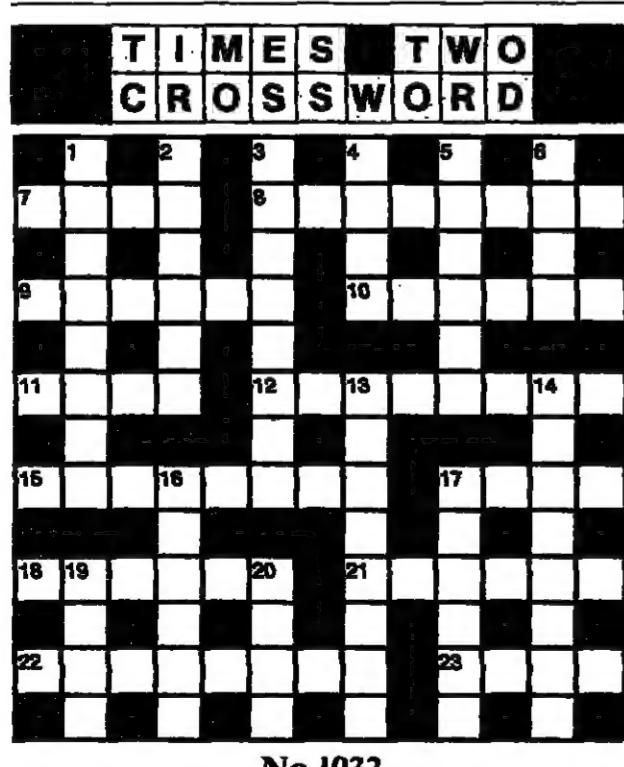
Grist, his co-driver, was simply relieved to finish: "The alternator failed at one point today so we turned off the cooling fans and one fuel pump, which made for suspension difficulties. I've never been so worried in any rally in my life."

For the first time in a championship

race, British drivers occupied the first two places as Richard Burns finished second, despite driving for most of the final day without a clutch. "The roads are absolutely amazing," he said. "It's just hundreds and hundreds of miles and bumps and pot-holes. I'm just ecstatic to finish second in one piece."

With Tommi Mäkinen, of Finland, the world champion, Carlos Sainz, of Spain, and Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, all failing to last the course, McRae went to the top of the drivers' championship, with 13 points, one ahead of Sainz.

Results and standings, page 46



No 1032

ACROSS

- An adhesive (4)
- Of armorial science (8)
- One on foot (6)
- (Esp. Cornish) fairies (6)
- Satellite (4)
- Nietzsche's top person (8)
- Memento (8)
- Sit; substitute (4)
- Unfree persons (6)
- Mental health (6)
- Fabled treasure city (2,6)
- Nipple (4)
- Probation-era gangster (2,6)
- Indicate to approach (6)
- Personal magnetism (8)
- Let fall (4)
- Magical remedy (6)
- Rasp; dossier (4)
- Journalists' enclosure (5,3)
- Call; prison, had Birdman (9)
- Conditioned-reflex researcher (6)
- Concise pointlessness (6)
- Wonderful thing; Berg opera (4)
- G B —, Man and 12 author (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1031

ACROSS: 1 Red Cross 5 Palm 9 Serve one right 10 Gym 11 Iceberg 13 Adrift 15 Past it 18 Officer 20 Attn 23 The Devil to pay 24 Date 25 Bardolph

DOWN: 1 Rust 2 Dirty 3 Reel off 4 Sin bin 6 Augment 7 Mitigate 8 Free 12 Garotted 14 Reflect 16 Adapted 17 Troika 19 Chef 21 Nepal 22 Myth

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